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LD2709131588 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli Air Attack—Israeli warplanes attacked "terrorist" targets in the central sector of southern Lebanon 27 September, destroying bases used for attacks in the security zone, IDF radio announced. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the raids targeted Hizballah positions in Al-Luwayzah and Mlita, causing casualties and extensive material damage. Lebanese resistance fighters also engaged in artillery exchanges with Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army (SLA) in various parts of southern Lebanon, according to KUNA.

Political Situation—Former President Amin al-Jumayyil has resumed contacts with Muslim leaders in West Beirut and has sent an envoy to Damascus, Beirut radio reported 27 September. The radio also cited a statement by Deputy Auguste Bakhus calling on the Lebanese Army to assume security in "Greater Beirut" to end disputes about the venue of the election of a new president. Meanwhile, "nationalist and progressive parties" in West Beirut called for a broad national conference of all those opposed to the establishment of General Michel 'Awn's military government, the radio noted.

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Gen 'Awn has made several new appointments in the Army Command, including that of Colonel 'Amir Shihab to replace Colonel Simon Qassis as head of military intelligence. Regarding the new government's relations with Arab countries, Radio Free Lebanon noted that 'Awn received the Iraqi charge d'affaires and the head of the Egyptian interests section in Lebanon 26 September. After his talks with 'Awn, the Iraqi official expressed satisfaction with 'Awn's stands and blamed the current crisis on foreign intervention and occupation.

As for Israeli involvement, Kuwait's AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM claimed that the Israeli Navy transported 450 SLA soldiers to Juniyah to reinforce Christian forces in East Beirut following the establishment of Gen 'Awn's government. The paper also stated that Israeli intelligence officials held talks with Gen 'Awn and with Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' during a "secret visit" to East Beirut last week.

Israel

Foreign Affairs—Israel has lost the Tabah arbitration as the international team of arbitrators has determined that the disputed area will become Egyptian territory, Jerusalem radio announced 27 September. The radio noted that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Egyptian counterpart 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid have promised President Reagan that their countries will abide by the arbitration verdict, which will be officially announced in Geneva 29 September. Commenting on his talks with Reagan, Peres told Jerusalem radio that the meeting was politically significant and that it was an opportunity to portray Israel "in the best and most accurate light." The radio also cited his remark that the meeting "achieved more than he had expected."

Territories—Three Arabs were killed and at least 26 wounded in riots in the territories and East Jerusalem 26 September, Jerusalem radio announced. One of the fatalities was in the Gaza Strip; the two others in villages near Jerusalem and Ramallah. Fourteen residents were arrested during clashes with police near Jerusalem. Outside Israel, the clandestine Al-Quds radio broadcast the "most important points" of the "uprising" leadership's Call No 26. This included a reference to the recent organized march of masked youths in Nabulus as "marking the takeoff of the esteemed Palestinian Popular Army." The Nicosia Arabic paper AL-NASR reported earlier that the Palestinian Popular Army was formed by Fatah as the "military arm" of the uprising and to wage a "protracted popular war."

Egypt

Foreign Affairs—President Husni Mubarak left London for Paris, where he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on international issues and bilateral relations, MENA reported. In remarks to Arab journalists in London cited by MENA, Mubarak indicated that he has received a promise from President Reagan that the United States will "contain" the crisis with Iraq over chemical weapons. As for Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid's talks with President Reagan and Israel's Shim'on Peres, MENA cited 'Abd al-Majid's view that the meeting was "constructive" and noted Reagan's remark that the Palestinians should "have a say in the determination of their future."

Aswan Arrests—Police arrested 20 Muslim fundamentalists involved in a brawl at a mosque in the southern city of Aswan, AFP reported. Fighting broke out in the mosque when other worshippers tried to stop the fundamentalists from holding a meeting after a service.

Iran

Foreign Relations—The head of the Foreign Ministry's Western Europe Department left for Geneva to hold talks with a British official on the normalization of British-Iranian relations, IRNA reported. The same subject will be discussed during the foreign minister's upcoming meeting with his British counterpart in New York, the agency noted. In Beijing, XINHUA announced Iran and the PRC have reached agreement on the establishment of consulates to boost bilateral trade. An Iranian official said the economic talks with Chinese officials were a major step forward, disclosing that the two sides agreed to boost the volume of bilateral trade by $100 million, IRNA reported.

Sabotage Network—An Islamic Revolution Committee (IRC) official cited by IRNA stated that IRC security men have arrested nine saboteurs who were planning to cause explosions in Zahedan, southeast Iran. Three of the arrested were "agents of an espionage network of a foreign government," the official said, while the six others were "local mercenaries." The group had concealed over 280 pounds of TNT in four cars and was planning to detonate the bombs in Zahedan. IRNA had earlier announced the execution of an Iraqi convicted of spying and planting bombs in the western city of Bakhtaran.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Afghan aircraft launched another raid inside Pakistan 26 September, killing 6 people and wounding 10 others in a "barbarous" attack on a village near Parachinar, Islamabad radio announced. Pakistan lodged another protest with Afghanistan over this new violation of the Geneva Accords, the radio said. However, a TASS commentator dismissed Pakistani reports of Afghan air attacks, asserting that "not a single checked fact of bombings has been demonstrated" and that the reports from Islamabad are based on "unsubstantiated assertions."

As for the situation in Afghanistan, Kabul radio reported that 7 people were killed and 18 injured by further rocket attacks on residential areas of the capital. Resistance sources cited by AFP claimed that some 40 government soldiers were killed and 200 wounded in a 23 September explosion at an Afghan Army base 15 miles from Jalalabad.

Western Sahara

A Polisario communique cited by APS called on the international community to convince Morocco to "respond positively" to the peace process and to engage in direct negotiations with the Saharans so that the "big problems" between the two sides can be resolved. Polisario also announced a partial reshuffle of the Saharan "government," appointing Mohamed Sidati as foreign minister in place of Mohamed Ould Salek, who becomes information minister, according to Algiers radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arabsat Chief Views Israeli Satellite Launch

PM2609153388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Arabsat Studying Facts Regarding Israeli Satellite Ofeq-1"]

[Text] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In its first reaction to the Zionist entity's launch of the first spy satellite, the Riyadh-based Arab Satellite Communications Organization, "Arabsat," told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it "attaches great importance to the matter and is currently studying the facts, in order to take any appropriate measures in coordination with the member bodies as well as the competent and concerned quarters in the Arab states."

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT whether there was a plan to confront the Israeli spy satellite, namely by jamming it in orbit, Arabsat Director General Eng Abdelkader Bairi said:

"The Zionist entity's first spy satellite called Ofeq-1 is an experimental spy satellite whose life is limited—to 1 month, to be precise. It is in a non-geostationary orbit, following an irregular elliptical path with a perigee at 250 km and apogee at almost 1000 km. It is taking 90 minutes to complete one orbit of the earth."

He said that Arabsat, like other similar organizations and quarters concerned, is following the event and studying related facts.

Eng Bairi pointed out that, like other international and regional organizations concerned with communications, Arabsat provides telephone, cable, telex, and television transmission services via a communications satellite designed for the purpose of exchanging communication services among the member bodies, indicating that these satellites are placed in geostationary orbit 36,000 km above the equator.

International Telecommunications Union rules stipulate there must be a prior announcement and an application for registration, as well as prior coordination with regard to all satellites expected to be placed in geostationary orbit.

He added: Arabsat has detailed information on all world, regional, and local satellites operating in the communications field—both those already in orbit and those expected to be placed in geostationary equatorial orbit, including the Zionist satellite called AMS, that is, the African-Mediterranean Satellite expected to be launched in the future.

On Arabsat's plan to employ a technological process designed to prolong the lives of Arab satellites by at least 3 years, Eng Bairi said that work and studies are being conducted to decide on the best technical and financial terms to ensure technological success as well as the safety of the Arabsat system, so we can provide good and effective communications services.

Bairi expects Arabsat to complete its study and submit it to the board of directors at its upcoming meeting in Qatar in November.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Envoy Reacts to Reagan's UN Speech

JN2609190988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from New York]

[Text] In a first Palestinian reaction to President Reagan's address to the UN General Assembly today, PLO representative Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman told our radio that there is a major contradiction in President Reagan's call for respect of all nations' inalienable rights and his exemption of the Palestinian people.

He added that to give his words credibility, Reagan should have included the Palestinian people's inalienable rights in his speech. It was noted, he said, that President Reagan has said that peace is based on one pillar—namely, the recognition of the inalienable rights of all nations—but he ignored the Palestinian people's rights. He even said the world body should not issue resolutions equating Zionism with racism in contravention of the world declaration of human rights.

The PLO official hoped the spirit of international concord that permeated Reagan's speech will apply to the Middle East and the Palestine question.

Tonight President Reagan will hold the anticipated tripartite meeting to which he invited Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Shultz, and Peres to discuss the continuation of the Middle East peace process. This meeting raises many questions about its results in the wake of the Israeli and U.S. elections.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid told me it is natural for nothing to be achieved at the time of elections, but what is important is the continuation of the march of peace and the U.S. concern for it.

Although the Palestinian side is absent from this meeting, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will provide the Palestinian viewpoint in the light of the stands 'Arafat expressed in Cairo. He will also stress Egypt's stand in support of the PLO's legitimate representation in an international conference as well as the legitimacy of establishing a Palestinian state in accordance with the partition resolution.

Al-Quds Radio Issues 'Uprising' Call No 26

JN2609184788 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Sep 88

["Most important points" of Call No 26 issued by the "Popular and National Committee of the Uprising": "The Call of Palestine"]

[Text] No voice rises above the voice of the uprising. No voice rises above the voice of the Palestinian people. Call No 26, the Call of Palestine. O masses of our struggling people, your uprising, in its 10th month, is achieving new developments, represented by the nonaligned countries' meeting, which affirmed your just demands and called for a total Zionist withdrawal from the occupied territories and their placement under temporary international supervision in preparation for our people's achieving their right to self-determination.

The Zionist enemy is admitting anew, this time through Shamir, that it is impossible to put an end to the uprising militarily and by force. O sons of our heroic people, your continuation in the popular uprising guarantees the destruction of the U.S. Administration's belligerence. It will lead it to give up its arrogance and impossible conditions, which it is attempting to impose on our legal representative, the PLO.

Let American imperialism, which supports our enemy with all its power, know that it is the one obliged to bend to our people and not the other way around. Let it recongize the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of our Palestinian people and their rights to repatriation, to self-determiantion, and to establish an independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as capital.

Let the Zionist entity know its might and satellites are not more powerful than our stones and will not be able to extinguish the rays of hope shining through the eyes of our children. The Zionist entity is not stronger than the United States nor are our people weaker than the people of Vietnam.

O masses of the uprising, we are a free and struggling nation. The glorious uprising has taught us that through it; through our sacrifices, and struggles; through our inflicting great political and economic losses on the enemy; through reversing the winning equation of the occupation, turning its financial gains into losses, and through effecting a true change in the local and international balance of power, we can wrest from the enemy even more achievements along the path of freedom and independence.

Your uprising has come as the most powerful voice of protest. You have declared it loudly and resonantly: No to the occupation, yes and a thousand yeses to liberty and independence. From the depths of this roaring voice, the popular and national committees have structured through their repeated calls your specific and general political demands.

The masses of our people ask the United Nations General Assembly in its 42d session to assert the national rights of our people, take all measures guaranteeing their implementation, and force the Zionist entity to adhere to them. This we ask for along with the following:

1. The Zionist entity's withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

2. Canceling all annexation measures and removing the settlements built in the occupied territories.

3. Placing the occupied Palestinian territories under UN supervision and providing protection to our people's masses for a period not exceeding a few months to pave the way for the Palestinian people's free exercise of their right to self-determination.

Work should be done to commit the Zionist entity to the following:

A. Immediately implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 605, 607, and 608.

B. Canceling the 1945 emergency regulations as well as all the domestic and international legislation and military orders.

C. Withdrawing the army from populated Palestinian areas.

D. Releasing the uprising's detainees and repatriating the deportees.

E. Holding free elections for municipal and village councils under UN supervision.

F. Implementing the fourth Geneva convention for 1949 as well as all international agreements that regulate the occupation's relationship with the occupied territories.

G. Halting the annihilation measures against our people in terms of economic siege, killings, demolition of houses, torture, deportations, administrative detentions, and building of settlements.

O masses of our militant people, the only way to realize these legitimate demands and compel our arrogant enemy to recognize them is through further struggle on all levels, through escalating the uprising and promoting it to higher levels, and through maintaining the uprising's momentum. Moreover, we should always take the initiative. Proceeding on this path, we urge adherence to the following action guidelines:

—The occupation's onslaught: Anticipating the occupation onslaught by massive popular action; enhancing the strike committees, the guard duty committees, and the popular committees; consolidating the phenomenon of secretiveness and discretion as well as closing ranks on the internal front; taking to the streets following the example of free Nabulus whose masked youths took to the streets in an organized march, thereby marking the takeoff of the esteemed Palestinian popular army. Greetings, all greetings to them and to the uprising's masses in the heroic besieged areas in Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, 'Anabta, Kafr Malik, and the Gaza Strip whose merchants refused to yield to the enemy's demand to write their names and addresses on the doors of their shops.

—The uprising initiative: Taking the uprising initiative; escalating the struggle against the appointed municipal and village committees; boycotting the civil administration as well as its bodies and its Arab employees by the masses; striking at and liquidating the agents following the example of the heroic actions carried out against them in Gaza, Nabulus, Janin, Yattah, Sinjil, and other areas; and boycotting and alienating the agents.

The popular education: The aim of the popular education is not only the completion of the school curriculum, but also the elimination of men's illiteracy and the urging of all educational institutions to play their role in defining ways of evaluation and promotion of those who study in the popular education classes. Our slogan is: "Education for resistance".

—The workers: We urge our workers to continue their refusal to go to work on days of comprehensive strike and to reject the Zionist demand that workers stay overnight within the green line on the eves of comprehensive strike days so they can avoid revenge. Three of our workers faced such revenge.

—The merchants, the factories, and the workshops: The popular and national committees reiterate the need not to pay taxes. The merchants committees should follow up this issue and reinforce the boycott of Zionist goods, which have local alternatives, by publishing lists of them, guaranteeing ways not to raise prices, reducing the prices of national products, fixing prices for the citizens, urging the employers to pay wages and salaries on time as they were doing on the eve of defining the opening and closure hours of the shops, and paying for the days of the comprehensive strike.

—The agricultural work and cooperatives: The popular and national committees call for a mass effort to reap and squeeze out olive fruits and encourage food storage and cooperative work so we can benefit from every Palestinian olive tree. We also urge farmers and oil merchants to sell their products in the local market at reasonable prices because it is our oil and we will use it locally if we cannot export it.

—The unity of the internal front: The popular and national committees stress the importance of reinforcing the unity of our internal front, whose rock has crushed all forms of repression and terrorism. We urge our masses to combat all forms of sectarian conflcit, which the enemy and its agents are trying to raise. We also affirm it will fail to pump up some people to show them as if they are rivals of the popular and national committees.

—People who are sought for arrest: The popular and national committees salute the sons of our people who have rejected arrest orders. The committees urge the masses to support and assist them.

O the masses of our generous people: The popular and national committees highly appreciate our brave masses in steadfast Qalqilyah, which has inspired fear in the hearts of the brutal settlers with its stones, Molotov cocktails, and nails; shaken the entity of the repressive Zionist generals; and replied to the repressive measures by escalating its struggle.

The committees also highly appreciate the Khan Yunus revolutionary masses, which resolutely confronted the terrorist Rabin, the minister of repression, and his entourage. They also urge the specialized committees and the strike teams to define a militant timetable in accordance with the circumstances of each center to implement the following combat operations:

1. Escalating the daily confrontations of the Zionist forces and settlers and destroying the enemy's property.

2. Continuing the process of clearing the internal front of the desecration of the enemies.

3. Stepping up voluntary work to help the farmers during olive harvesting season.

4. Showing solidarity with the besieged places by revolutionizing and activating them so no place can be singled out, by sending medical and supply materials to them, and by taking care of the agricultural crops.

5. Showing solidarity with those harmed by the uprising, including captives, wounded, martyrs' families, deportees, the owners of demolished houses, and those who were expelled from work by staging strikes and sit-ins and by assisting them.

6. Monday, 3 October, 1988, will be a day of comprehensive strike to protest the enemy's measure to continue the closure of schools and educational institutions. Sunday, 9 October, 1988, will also be a day of comprehensive strike on the occasion of the 11th month of the uprising.

[Signed] The popular and national committees in Palestine

Egypt

Mubarak: Reagan To 'Contain' Crisis With Iraq

NC2709064788 Cairo MENA in English 0630 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, Sept 27 (MENA)—The three Cairo Arabic dailies today gave prominence to the talks President Mubarak held yesterday with the British Premier Margaret Thatcher and with other senior officials. The papers further quoted a source at 10 Downing Street as saying that the talks were very cordial and covered the situation in the Gulf and Egyptian economic problems. [passage omitted]

In a meeting with editors of the Arab newspapers held at the Egyptian Embassy in London, President Mubarak revealed that President Reagan, in reply to a message on the charges levelled by the U.S. against Iraq of using chemical weapons, pledged to contain the crisis with Iraq, the papers said. President Mubarak said King Husayn told him that passports issued by Jordan to the Palestinians were still valid and that the Jordanian Government would renew them for another two years, the papers added. On Lebanon Mubarak said the situation there is confusing and the existence of two governments harms the interests of the Lebanese people in the first place, the papers said.

On the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations Mubarak blamed Iran for checking the Iraqi vessels as it contravenes with the cease-fire. On the Egyptian prisoners issue, he said it would be resolved with the signing of a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran. President Mubarak affirmed that the Arabs can launch more than a satellite if they agree together. He disclosed that he sent a message to Yitzhaq Rabin to prevent Israeli fanatics form attacking Al-Aqsa Mosque and Rabin responded to his request, the papers added. The president revealed that Egypt civil debts and interests mounted to 27 billion dollars. He pointed out that subsidies reached L.E. 10.5 billions while Egypt revenues do not exceed 18 billions per year. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid on Meeting With Reagan, Peres

Focus on Peace

NC2109142488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that his upcoming meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, to take place in Washington on 26 September, would boost the peace efforts which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz initiated last April. In an exclusive interview with the Cairo-based AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, which will appear on Friday, 'Abd al-Majid said that the fact that the U.S. President has shown interest in this meeting gives the conference a certain importance. He added: We regard this as a sort of commitment at the higher echelons of the U.S. Administration.

'Abd al-Majid mentioned that the meeting will focus on a single issue, which is the peace initiative. He denied that the Tabah issue will be discussed. 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is confident that the ruling by the international arbitration panel on Tabah, to be pronounced on 29 September, will be in Egypt's favor. He also expressed the hope that Israel will implement the verdict in good will and good faith. 'Abd al-Majid also spoke to AL-MUSAWWAR on current Arab and international developments, concentrating on the Palestinian issue and the peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

He underscored the importance of the current U.S.-Soviet dialogue concerning the Middle East, but added that certain differences persist between the two sides on the nature and role of the international conference. 'Abd al-Majid said: I can say that there is a clear willingness to reach an agreement. This is indicated by recent developments. The Soviet and U.S. sides have reached an agreement that certain issues should be discussed directly among the parties concerned and that the five permanent members of the Security Council should not interfere in them. For example, if within the framework of the international conference Syria and Israel came to negotiate the Golan, the opinion of the two superpowers would be that such an issue must be resolved through direct negotiations between the two concerned parties.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid called on Palestinian leaders to formulate a well-defined political program of the transitional government before declaring such a government, but he qualified this statement by saying: This is a personal and not an official opinion. 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is making considerable efforts to reach a formula ensuring that the PLO will participate in the international conference. He added that the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza is a daily reminder that the PLO is a real force and that the Palestinian people alone have the right to decide on their future and their land.

Concerning the decision by King Husayn of Jordan to sever administrative ties with the West Bank, 'Abd al-Majid said that this decision was made to satisfy Palestinian aspirations. He added: It is no secret that the Palestinians have always been demanding that they take charge of their affairs and their future. King Husayn bowed to their will. On the Iraq-Iran peace talks, Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed hope that they will resume. He said: Negotiations are not an easy matter. They must face crisis periods, interruptions, and then resumption of talks. Dr 'Abd al-Majid explained that the current internal developments in Iran indicate that Iranian policy is inclined toward a political settlement and understanding. He stressed that it is necessary for the Arabs to continue supporting Iraq during the current phase of negotiations. He said: Without a doubt, the Gulf war was

a touchstone and a test of Arab cohesion. Except for Syria and Libya, the Arab base was strong and sound and I believe it will continue to be so.

On the U.S. attitude toward Iraq and the United States accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he does not agree with all this agitation against Iraq, adding: We believe that all statements affirm that this did not happen. He explained that inside the United States there are forces that are trying to undermine Iraq's victory. These same forces have acted within the Congress. In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed Egypt's support for Iraq during the war and in the peace negotiations because Egypt before and after the war is the same Egypt with all its strength and weight.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid explained that there is no hostility between Egypt and Iran. In this respect, he indicated that it was Iran which severed relations with Cairo, and when the Khomeyniite revolution came to power, it adopted a hostile stand toward Egypt without any justification. He added: If in the coming period Iran adopts a policy of good faith and understanding and does not attempt to export the Khomeyniite revolution, Egypt and several other countries will welcome this. But if Iran tries to export the Khomeyniite revolution, which has failed in Iran itself, we will not accept this and we will resist it.

Concerning the Shatt al-'Arab problem, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Iraq knows its own interests better than Egypt knows Iraq's interests. However, Egypt supports Iraq in its stand. Iraq has the say in what it accepts and does not accept in this issue.

Previews New York Meeting

NC2309163588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Paris, 23 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that every Egyptian and every Arab is pained by the recent developments in Lebanon. He added that Egypt reiterates the importance of non-interference in Lebanon's affairs and stresses that the Lebanese themselves must secure the preservation of Lebanon's safety and unity. Speaking to reporters during his short stopover at Paris airport while en route to New York today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid described Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's meeting in Cairo as extremely important, particularly his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, during which he briefed him on the latest developments in the Palestinian stand on the eve of President Mubarak's European tour.

He added that there is pragmatism, positiveness, and development in the Palestinian stand. He said that 'Arafat's recent success in Strasbourg was clear to all observers of the Palestinian issue. This strengthens tne Arab and Palestinian stand and emphasizes to European public opinion the role that Europe can play in giving impetus to the peace process.

Regarding his meeting with the U.S. and Israeli foreign ministers in the presence of President Ronald Reagan on 26 September, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that this meeting will focus on the U.S. peace initiative and the means of giving it new impetus. He added that this meeting is significant, as it shows the U.S. Administration's determination and commitment in the past few months to the declarations of President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz on the desire for a constructive U.S. role. He said he welcomes this and that every step in this direction is beneficial. He added that this matter is of interest to all parties, including Israel, Egypt, the United States, the Soviet Union, the Palestinians, and the Arab countries, to reach a peaceful settlement. He said: It is from this perspective that we are looking toward the 26 September meeting.

The Egyptian foreign minister pointed to President Mubarak's European tour and said that it highlights Egyptian-European relations and Europe's role in all political and economic fields.

Terms Talks 'Constructive'

NC2609222288 Cairo MENA in English 2214 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpts] New York Sept 26 (MENA)—The necessity that the Palestinians should have a say in the determination of their future was asserted here today by President Ronald Reagan in his meeting with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Israel Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres. President Reagan also underlined the necessity that the Palestinians should get their legitimate political rights. The American President praised Egypt's resumption of its leading Arab role without sacrificing its relations with Israel.

In a statement to MENA, Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Ismat 'Abd al-Majid described the meeting as having been constructive. He said various viewpoints were exchanged. He quoted President Reagan as having explained the U.S. attitude towards the Middle East problem, showing resolve on continuation of the peace process, calling upon Israel to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and praising Egyptian Middle East peace-establishing efforts. Dr 'Abd al-Majid reported Secretary of State George Shultz, who was attending the meeting, as having touched on the problem of Tabah, on which the arbitration ruling will be coming out next Thursday, calling for the necessity of both parties' adherence to implementation of the verdict in good. [as received]

According to Dr 'Abd al-Majid, Peres pledged to have Israel implementing the ruling. [passage omitted]

Peres praised President's Husni Mubarak's efforts towards finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. He said he agrees with Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the necessity of finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. Camp David, he said, is a beginning and not an end.

'Abd al-Majid, Shevardnadze To Meet 1 Oct
NC2209132688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—The Soviet ambassador in Cairo, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, has stated that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in New York on 1 October, during their stay there to attend the UN General Assembly session. The Soviet ambassador has expressed hope that a date for Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt will be determined during that meeting. This was stated by Zhuravlev after his meeting with Dr 'Abd al-Majid, during which they discussed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them. The ambassador asserted that both countries are making efforts to bolster and strengthen their relations.

Mubarak Rejects Israeli Proposal on Tabah Hotel
NC2409073788 Cairo MENA in English 0658 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Sep (MENA)—[Passage omitted] "AKHBAR AL-YAWM" reported that Egypt turned down an Israeli offer of partnership in the ownership of the hotel in Tabah at the rate of 49 per cent for Israel and 51 per cent for Egypt. The newspaper said President Mubarak rejected the offer altogether and said that Israelis had no right to build a hotel on a land they did not own. [passage omitted]

Tabah Tribunal Ruling Cited
NC2709091488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, 27 Sep (MENA)—The Israeli radio political correspondent has learned that the international team of arbitrators, entrusted with settling the Egyptian-Israeli dispute over the Tabah area, will rule that the disputed point, known on the maps as Point 9 [as received], should be marked in accordance with the Egyptian marking, thus turning the hotel and the tourist village into Egyptian territory under Egyptian sovereignty. It should be noted that the arbitrators' official ruling will be issued the day after tomorrow, Thursday.

Mubarak Speaks at News Conference in Belgrade
NC2309150788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that Egypt's and Yugoslavia's views on the Middle East issue are identical, and then added that even after an extended conversation he did not sense any difference in views. President Mubarak was responding to journalists' questions following the meeting he held today with SFRY leader Raif Dizdarevic. The president said: We rarely have differing views on the region's issues, because we have lived with the Middle East issue from the beginning and we have relations with all parties concerned. We also hold continuous contacts with the PLO, he added.

President Mubarak said: We have called for convening the international peace conference. At present, he added, we are communicating with Israel, Jordan, and the United States, and we have relations with all parties concerned. He asserted that Egypt and Yugoslavia are pursuing the same line, which is based on reaching a just solution to the issue and recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people. President Mubarak expressed the belief that Yugoslavia adopts the same view in this regard. The president was asked whether he had discussed with the SFRY president new agreements or steps to be taken by the Nonaligned Movement. He replied: We discussed the Nonaligned Movement in our talks yesterday and stressed the need to bolster its activity to make it more effective, because it is the largest movement in the world and has a major role to play in connection with the issues of the Third World. President Mubarak expressed the belief that the Nonaligned Movement will play a significant role in Third World issues under the leadership of Yugoslavia.

The SFRY president responded to questions on new Yugoslav proposals to support the Nonaligned Movement. He said: First of all, I would like to express our pleasure that our dear friend President Husni Mubarak is our first dear guest since the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in Cyprus, which entrusted Yugoslavia with the chairmanship of the movement during the coming year. He added: We have been together from the very beginning, when the late leaders 'Abd al-Nasir and Tito initiated the movement, and we are still together. During the meeting with our dear guest President Husni Mubarak, we agreed on the need to make further efforts to add to the effectiveness of the Nonaligned Movement regarding the issues under consideration. He noted that Yugoslavia has many ideas on how to modernize the movement's method of action. The SFRY president also expressed the hope that all Nonaligned members will take part in the next conference in Belgrade to guarantee its success.

At the end of the news conference, President Mubarak responded to a question on Egyptian-Yugoslav bilateral cooperation. He said: We are both eager to bolster cooperation, which is already increasing. He added that the concerned ministers have met to discuss ways to facilitate bilateral cooperation. President Mubarak asserted that both countries are eager to maintain and bolster this cooperation, adding that he is confident that cooperation will increase thanks to the common interests of both countries.

The president was asked whether his European tour falls within the framework of securing European recognition of the Palestinian state upon its proclamation. The president said it is more important for the Palestinians to agree among themselves on what they should do and to determine a specific date for this. He added: The announcement of anything right now must come after thorough and due consideration. I say it frankly. Such an announcement before the U.S. and Israeli elections must be made very carefully, he said. The president was asked whether his talks in Yugoslavia had touched on the issue of indebtedness. The president replied: We discuss our debts and ways to handle them, like any other country which has debts. He noted that all Third World countries and even the superpowers have debts.

Trade Committee To Meet

NC2409141888 Cairo MENA in English 1215 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 24 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak invited Yugoslav President Raif Dizdaveric to visit Egypt. The Yugoslav President accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be fixed later on. This was stated by Egyptian ambassador here Fu'ad Shukri. The Egyptian ambassador said that during President Husni Mubarak's visit it was agreed that the Yugoslav-Egyptian Committee for Economic Cooperation hold a meeting in December at ministerial level to discuss economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. He further said that the aim of this committee is to develop cooperation between Egypt and Yugoslavia in such a way so that more Egyptian exports would come to enter the Yugoslav markets and that more Yugoslav contributions be made to Egypt's five-year development plan.

The ambassador further said it was also agreed to hold a meeting at scientists' experts level to discuss means of using and exchanging technology. On the Egyptian-Yugoslav economic cooperation agreement the Egyptian ambassador said it was agreed to extend the term of agreement for another three months. He further said that in November a ministerial meeting among the three countries will be held to renew this economic cooperation agreement another five years.

President Mubarak, Delegation Visit SFRY

For reportage on the visit by President Husni Mubarak to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including his meetings with Raif Dizdarevic, president of the SFRY Presidency; a meeting with Branko Mikulic, president of the Federal Executive Council; and Mubarak's banquet toast, see the Yugoslavia section of the 26 September East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Daily Urges New Efforts at 26 Sep Meeting

NC2609070288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expresses the hope that the meeting which will take place tomorrow between U.S. President Reagan, Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will be nontraditional starting point toward convening an international conference for peace and solving the Palestinian issue. In its commentary to be published tomorrow, Monday, the paper says that this meeting must not merely review positions or make a comprehensive review of new developments; rather, it should make new and courageous explorations of the prospects for peace on the basis of complete objectivity and practical consideration that will ensure success.

The paper adds that the U.S. President, whose term of office is about to end, can still work out a constructive and neutral policy and take positive steps to which his successor will be committed. Also, Shim'on Peres, who confronts the problem of elections in November, can build his future logically and fairly by adopting a rational policy for action in the future, rather than leaning on the past. As for Egypt, the paper notes, its role is well-known with regard to presenting the true facts of the situation and influencing the parties to move further toward the right, justice, and lasting peace.

Concluding its commentary, the paper emphasizes that the U.S. stand, despite the U.S. "partnership," is still ambiguous, ambivalent, and undefined with regard to its purpose. The United States talks only about political rights for the Palestinians. This is short of the right to self-determination and establishment of the proposed state, in accordance with UN resolutions and world consensus. This is the realistic and just solution if a lasting peace is to be achieved. The paper notes that negotiations can achieve nothing if this framework, which is rejected by the United States and Israel, is not grasped.

U.S. Protest on Iraqi Toxic Gas Use Attacked

PM2709102588 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Sep 88 p 5

[Salah Shadi article: "Keys to U.S. Policy"]

[Excerpts] Egyptian newspapers tend to cover the news concerning the end of the Iraq-Iran war cautiously! For instance, you read a report on the U.S. Government's intention to impose sanctions on Iraq because of its violation of international laws on wars and the use of chemical weapons in its war with the Kurds. And then you read reports on Iraq's response in this regard: The United States was annoyed at Iraq's refusal to supply it with a Russian tank so that it could benefit from Russian

technology and explore the latest in tank technology—which prompted the United States to accuse Iraq of using chemical weapons in its war with the Kurds!

One tends to be astonished to the point of losing one's balance when reading or hearing reports dealing with the United States, the country of contradictions—or to be precise the country of all contradictions. Contradiction is characteristic of U.S. political thinking in the face of us Arabs, especially when we understand U.S. objectives in this part of the Arab world. When U.S. thoughts are raised for discussion, we must consider the following principles:

First, we must eliminate the idea that U.S. thinking is prompted by honorable values governing political action in defining the framework of the proposed political action, rather than by interests of the United States and those of its ally, Israel.

Second, if a political idea is meant to serve an Arab or Islamic issue, we must study all possibilities to determine what aspect of the Islamic or Arab world the proposed U.S. idea aims to destroy or hit at its most vulnerable spot.

Third, the long-term firm objective of U.S. policy in our region is to firmly plant and establish Israel in the heart of the Arab and Islamic world in such a way that Israel can move freely and rapidly throughout the Arab and Islamic world. These are the three keys to closed U.S. thinking!

If we take these axes into consideration when discussing any U.S. decision, we will be able to determine its motives, dimensions, and aims. On the basis of these principles, and in view of recent facts, we can see that the United States supplied Iran with advanced weapons during its war with Iraq. At the same time it supplied Iraq with satellite information on Iranian Army positions! So the aim was to destroy—yes, destroy, nothing less—the states of the Arab and Islamic world, as if there was an old grudge desperately prompting it to launch such a two-faced confrontation reflecting base morality and a lack of human values.

What prompts the United States at this particular time to condemn Iraq in its war with the Kurds when there has been evidence of the use of chemical weapons in the killing of Kurds [as published]. The commodity over which the United States sought to barter with Iraq was not available, as it did not receive a reply from Iraq regarding the dispatch of a Russian tank—a vile act the United States asked Iraq to commit, especially after Russia's support for it. [passage omitted]

If we review U.S. policy on the Palestinian question, we will find that it revolves around the objective of firmly establishing Israel in the Arab and Islamic world, from the time Israel was established right to our present time, whose dimensions have been drawn up by the Palestinian youths via the so-called uprising, which is actually a revolution launched by a people. [passage omitted]

Both Iraq and Iran are aware of the U.S. stand on the war between them: It wants the war to continue and escalate. Daily events prove rather than negate this. The nearest example is the Kurdish problem, which the Americans detonated at a crucial time, as there was hope that the rift between Iraq and Iran would be mended very shortly. The unified action sought here is for the two states to abandon their grudges and focus on the greater enemy who is aggravating and escalating the problem to achieve his hidden and declared objectives. [passage omitted]

Columnist Views Israeli Superiority Over Arabs

JN2509115888 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
23 Sep 88 p 3

["Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd al-Mun'im Murad]

[Text] There is still a great deal that can be said about Israel launching its satellite after it produced the atomic bomb, while we, Arabs, are still sleeping without a satellite or atomic bomb. What is interesting is that Israel is not a rich country. In fact, it is a debtor country, nay, even sunk in debts. Its economic situation is bad, perhaps even worse than ours in Egypt. Naturally, it cannot be compared with the oil-producing Arab countries, including al-Qadhdhafi's Libya, which has squandered its finances uselessly. On top of that, Israel does not have a large population. Even if all the Jews in the world are counted as part of its population, it will not add up to the population of any Arab country alone.

What, then, is the issue? We say, about ourselves, that we are asleep, lazy, or backward. About backwardness, we claim that we have more, greater, and more competent scientists than Israel does, but that we are sleepers and lazy. This might be true. Our flaw, which nearly drags us into crises, is that we care about quantity, especially in Egypt. We believe that so long as our number has gone beyond 50 million, no one will be able to conquer us. Some of our thinkers, politicians, as well as ordinary people claim that foreign countries, the United States, Israel, and others, are afraid of us and call on us to control our population and decrease our birth rate so that we will not be a source of danger threatening these countries with problems. This kind of talk is unparalleled in naivete.

Israel takes the issue seriously and prepares for anything it has planned. It knows that if it relaxes and sleeps soundly, therein might lie its destruction and extermination from the face of the earth. As for us, we claim that we are many and rich and that it is not possible for Israel to shake one hair on our heads. We think of food and sex and they think of defense and attack, of the atom and the satellite. They use the largest number of computers while

we count and calculate on our fingers. We place a great deal of value on our day or nighttime dreams. And when we make a decision, it is a shot in the dark.

Al-Jumayyil's 'Strange' Decision Criticized

NC2609045288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR describes the decision made by the Lebanese president on the last day of his tenure to form another government in Lebanon as strange and, by all legal and constitutional criteria, unprecedented in any state, as tradition and norms stipulate that the formation of a new government after the termination of the president's tenure is the prerogative of the new president. AL-AKHBAR says that the government which has been formed by President Amin al-Jumayyil under the Army commander now represents only the Christian element, since the Muslim officers refused to participate in it. Consequently, it has become an instrument for consecrating the sectarian division that threatens Lebanon with fragmentation into small entities. This is a dangerous destiny which we believe no nationalist and loyal Lebanese wishes for his country.

The paper says it appears that Amin al-Jumayyil wanted vengeance on those who participated in preventing him from exercising his powers as Lebanese president from the day of his election to the day he left the presidential palace. Therefore, he issued his strange decision, and in doing so followed the example of Samson who said, as he brought down the temple on the everyone's heads: On me and on my enemies.

Concluding its commentary, AL-AKHBAR says that Lebanon, which has remained without a government for several years, now suddenly has two governments. It is as if Lebanon has needed such a new and controversial factor to further the division and fragmentation that have afflicted it throughout the past 13 years. Instead of the election of a new president being an occasion for all the nationalist and loyal elements to rally around him to pull the country out of the abyss of destruction and ruin, it has become an occasion to add another link to the chain of conflict that portends consequences more dangerous than those Lebanon has experienced throughout past years.

20 Fundamentalists Arrested After 'Brawl'

NC2609204388 Paris AFP in English 2034 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 26 (AFP)—Police arrested 20 Moslem fundamentalists involved in a brawl with other worshippers at a mosque in the city of Aswan, south of here, on Monday. Police said hand-to-hand fighting broke out between fundamentalists and other worshippers who tried to stop the fundamentalists from holding a meeting at the Salah al-Din Mosque after a service. The fundamentalists used knives and iron chains during the brawl but no casualties were reported.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Ethiopian, Chadian Relations

JN2609143788 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Sep 88 pp 1, 20

[Text] Khartoum—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih has announced that his country is qualified to play a role in resolving the Libyan- Chadian conflict and that Chadian President Hissein Habre welcomes this role and calls for it to be played.

In statements to AL-ITTIHAD, he said our problem with Addis Ababa is that Ethiopia allows the rebel movement to use its territory as a base for its military, supply, and information activities and at the same time connects its stand to the presence of Eritrean liberation movements and Ethiopian refugees in Sudan.

Answering a question by AL-ITTIHAD on the outcome of the Sudanese delegation's recent meetings with Chadian officials and President Habre in Ndjamina and the possibility of Sudanese mediation between Libya and Chad, the Sudanese foreign minister said the main reason for the visit was the entrance of Chadian opposition forces of Ibn Oumar (The African Islamic Army Corps) into Sudan.

These forces entered the country without obtaining permission from the Sudanese Government, which from the beginning has confined these forces to certain areas, disarmed them, threatened to deal with them militarily if they refuse to obey orders issued by the Sudanese Armed Forces or if it becomes apparent they have any aggressive intentions, and prevented them from using Sudanese territory to launch attacks against Chad.

Abu Salih added: After a short period of time, it has transpired that these forces want to be reconciled with their kinfolk in Chad and to return there and they have handed over their weapons. We kept Chad informed of developments on this matter, but we felt that Chad doubts and mistrusts Sudan's stand. Therefore, we wanted to demonstrate our firm stand of good-neighbourliness with all of Sudan's many neighbors.

Abu Salih said that a high-level Chadian delegation will arrive in Khartoum before the end of the current month to continue discussions on all issues that began in Ndjamina to develop relations between the two countries and search for positive formulas that will help to stabilize the situation in the region.

Regarding relations with Ethiopia and Sudan's efforts between the Eritreans and Ethiopians, the Sudanese foreign minister said: The misunderstanding between us and Ethiopia results from Addis Ababa's harboring a Sudanese rebel movement, which uses Ethiopian territory for its military, supply, and information activities.

It is a movement that does not respond to calls of wisdom but bears arms against a democratic regime, in which freedom of expression and organization is guaranteed for all. It wants to impose its views and stands. This is despite the fact all political forces in Sudan have accepted the constitutional conference formula to resolve issues of government in the country and to achieve peace.

Abu Salih added: They in Ethiopia connect their stand supporting the rebel movement led by John Garang with the existence of Eritrean liberation movements and Ethiopian refugees in Sudan. The truth is that Sudan is affected more than the others by this presence. More than half the population in our eastern region are foreigners and this has a great impact on all fields of life and on the security situation as well.

For our part, we do not see any meaningful connection between the Eritrean problem and the rebels issue. In spite of this, if Ethiopia is ready, as we are, to sit with these movements at the negotiating table, then we do not object to any moves in this direction.

Abu Salih said as a result of Sudan's positive moves, Ethiopians have for the first time agreed in principle to sit down with the Eritreans. In the past, they used to absolutely reject this. The Sudanese foreign minister declined to reveal the content of the Ethiopian message, which Sudan delivered to the Eritrean movements.

Defense Minister on Garang's Rejection of Peace

JN2209191188 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Sep (SUNA)—The John Garang movement has lately escalated its military operations in the south. A number of the region's cities and villages have been subjected to attempts to attack or besiege them by the movement.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH [THE ARMED FORCES], published today, [Defense Minister] General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil stated that the military operations around Al-Nasir, Kutri, and Kabala confirm the lack of John Garang's seriousness in reaching a just, comprehensive solution to the problem of the south or achieving peace and sitting down at the negotiating table.

He pointed out that, since the uprising, Garang has been wasting opportunities to achieve peace. He has also been refusing to give clear opinions on the future of the democratically elected government.

On the other hand, certain areas in the south witnessed an escalation in the operations last week. These included areas of Equatoria and Upper Nile. Groups from Garang's movement attempted to surround certain cities but were confronted and repelled by the Armed Forces.

Kampala: SPLA Reportedly Ready to Negotiate

EA2609160388 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The SPLA is ready to hold negotiations with the Sudanese Government in Kampala. This was revealed by President Yoweri Museveni today when he met with the Sudanese Charge d'affaires Mr 'Abd al-Qadir al-Shaykh at State House, Entebbe. President Museveni informed the charge d'affaires that he had received a message from Dr John Garang informing him of the SPLA's readiness to hold talks with the Sudanese Government and the message of the SPLA suggested that the officials of both delegations have to meet in Kampala to prepare the agenda.

The charge d'affaires thanked the president for the message and promised to convey it to his government so that a (?definite) date can subsequently be fixed for the meeting.

DUP, SPLM To Hold Talks in Ethiopia

JN2409113688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1028 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 24 (SUNA)—A delegation from the Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" will leave within the next two days for Ethiopia to hold talks with Sudan People's Liberation Movement "SPLM" leader Col. John Garang.

Chairman of the delegation Sayid Ahmad al-Husayn, who is the deputy of the "DUP" secretary general, told the bi-weekly AL-ADWA' today that dialogue and negotiations are the only means of solving Sudan's problems.

He expressed hope that the expected encounter would come out with positive outcome.

The DUP had recently held talks with the SPLM. Both sides had agreed on the necessity of holding the proposed consituttional conference and solving the southern question peacefully.

SPLA Casualties Reported; Weapons Seized in Clash

EA2609215888 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1450 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Anya Nya II (?power) brigade forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel (Peter Gadat Changa) clashed with the SPLA at (Chilbuam) in Ayod area on 18 September 1988. During the long engagement 50 SPLA were killed and more than 75 were injured, a quantity of military equipment was seized: 1 RPG-7, 1 SAM-7, 1 B-10, 1 hawun [mortar] 50.75 mm, 2 deframe [as heard] and 75 Kalashnikovs were captured.

In a separate development, Colonel James Bol Tong has just arrived at Dulayb Hill on 24 September 1988 after defecting from the SPLA with a force of 1,500 men. They

were received by Brigadier (Ismail Koni Alam), Col (Isaiah Tut Chuol), and Lt Col (Simond Bol Lor), member of Anya Nya II political office.

Parties Meet To Discuss Islamic Penal Code

JN2209194088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum Sept. 22, SUNA—A number of local newspapers have today disclosed the details of a meeting held here yesterday between Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Constituent Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad and some other partisan leaders with a view to overcoming the difference of points of view around the new Islamic penal code now being discussed by the Parliament.

The Arabic daily AL-AYYAM today reported that the meeting reviewed the difference of viewpoints over the new law and decided continuation of meetings and participation by southern parties and the Sudanese National Party in these discussions with a view to reaching an agreement on the issue before next Monday date of resumption by the parliament of discussion of the draft law.

The Arabic daily AL-KHARTOUM reported that a political agreement was concluded by the Ummah Party of Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Democratic Unionist Party of Sayid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and National Islamic Front (NIF) of Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, here yesterday.

The concluded agreement is intended to finding a national formula for disucssing the penal code draft and carrying out more political discussion over the said law, the paper said. It added that the three parties in power also agreed to form a committee under the chairmanship of Parliament Speaker Prof. Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad and membership of representatives of the coalition government parties to help formalize a national formula over the draft law while the parliament is still continuing discussions [words indistinct].

The paper said the committee has been given a period of time lasting before next Monday to finish its works. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Marks 26 September Revolution Anniversary

JN2609072088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on national radio and television on 25 September marking the anniversary of the 26 September revolution—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praised be God. May the peace and blessings of God be upon His Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of right, freedom, justice, and equality.

Brother citizens at home and abroad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon you. I extend to you the greeting of the great September revolution; the greeting of freedom, democracy, and order. I also extend to every member of our people in the northern and southern parts of the homeland and to all men of our Armed Forces and security forces my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the 26th anniversary of the immortal 26 September revolution, which did away with the most recalcitrant, backward, and despotic imamate rule, helped our people emerge from the darkness into the light, and restored to Yemen its honor and dignity.

I also greet all the sons of our loyal people for all the contributions they have made to enable the revolution and its republican system to stand firm and triumph and also for their cooperation with all the revolutionary steps over the past 26 years of continuous work and struggle, thanks to the national willpower of our people who believe in God, the homeland, the revolution, and the immortal republican system.

Brothers, we celebrate the great September revolution every year to mark our people's victory over injustice, tyranny, imamate despotism, and odious colonial domination, and to remind the September revolution generation of the coercion, misery, and want they had suffered under the imamate and colonialism. We praise God Almighty for the great achievements we have made in all the social, political, economic, democratic, and unity fields under the canopy of national unity and people's rule away from domination and deception, thanks to the concerted efforts of all the devout sons of our struggling people and their determination to proceed with the revolution toward the achievement of all of its great aims.

Brother citizens, the revolution's 26th year to which we are bidding farewell today has been full of achievements, especially in the democratic field—one of its main aims. This year witnessed direct free elections for the Consultative Council. Those elections presented a brilliant picture of the principle of people's rule and collective leadership, which our people will always defend and uphold.

The establishment of the elected legislative authority is considered a victory for our people's struggle and another national revolutionary achievement to be added to the other inalienable gains which have been achieved on the democratic level such as the elections of the General People's Congress, the local councils for cooperative development, and the popular and professional federations, unions, and organizations—these all formed the base and springboard for the success of the Consultative Council elections.

Our people have proven that they are indeed capable of exercising their democratic option—in order to always protect the revolution and the republic—and preserving and developing this option through the exercise of their political liberties. This will continue to be the people's option and the path of national action to bolster the homeland's honor, dignity, and sovereignty. The masses shall always give abundantly and creatively so that society will continue to pursue the course of development with firm and confident steps.

The great success of the Consultative Council elections has foiled the wagers of the enemies of the revolution and the Republic and the enemies of social and political progress in our country. Undoubtedly, this success would not have been achieved had it not been for the entrenched security and stability, the strong national unity consolidated by the unity of doctrine, and the growing awareness of the masses and their response to all national issues. This is all in a spirit of responsibility and commitment to the ideology of the national charter and translating its contents, and through embodying the objectives and targets of the General People's Congress.

Brother citizens, the democratic gains which crowned the Consultative Council elections necessitate that everyone maintain these gains practically, through exercising their rights, adhering to the duties entailed by these gains and protecting them from any attempt to undermine or obstruct them. This is because all of us feel that the state legislative, executive, and judiciary apparatuses are one entity moving within a defined framework represented by the permanent constitution, laws in force, the contents of the national charter, and the objectives of the third 5-year plan.

Based on this, safeguarding this experience has become a historic responsibility shouldered by the Consultative Council and the executive authority. This experience depends on their ability to achieve the maximum cooperation which yields results in achieving the aspirations of the masses that were eager to play their electoral role and exercise their democratic rights most zealously and eagerly. As they understand and realize the dimensions and importance of this great achievement, they realize one of the clear and specified objectives of the glorious revolution.

Brothers, every anniversary of our revolution has its own charateristics and peculiarities. If the 25th anniversary of the revolution had witnessed many important achievements on the path of realizing the principles and objectives of the immortal September revolution, including the year of self-reliance and the beginning of oil exportation, the 26th anniversary of the revolution has other characteristics, linked with the most important achievments of the revolution on the path of building the individual who [words indistinct] the revolution in construction and the aspired change in the present and future. This includes the success of the summer camps for the revolution and charter youths supervised by the Armed Forces General Command and the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress.

These are aimed at preparing them educationally, culturally, and mentally; equipping them with spiritual values and higher ideals; and training them to be a generation capable of defending the homeland and safeguarding the revolution and the republic and its gains in all cases and circumstances. This is because youth equipped with science and knowledge and loyalty to God, the homeland, and the revolution is the strategic reserve of the people and the armed and security forces. Youth is the shield of the revolution and its new society. It is the homeland's weapon for the future, which will hold the trust and carry the banner of the September revolution and its immortal republican system in order to regain Yemen's glories and ancient civilization.

On this occasion, we affirm that the youth of the homeland and the revolution will enjoy the greatest attention and continuous care to develop its capabilities and knowledge and to meet the requirements of development and the needs of the homeland, given that preparing and rehabilitating youths is one of the greatest national objectives aspired to by the masses of the people.

Brother citizens, the past 26 years have recorded a heroic epic by our people who managed to begin their life from zero and to pool all their efforts and limited resources into reconstruction over the imamate ruins. They heroically confronted all the forces hostile to the revolution and the republic. They struggle bravely while continuing the process of reconstruction, the formation of the new September society, and increasing the revolutionary success to remove the heavy legacy of backwardness. This was until they scored victory over their enemies and achieved great gains for the sake of progress and prosperity.

Our people are proud to have achieved many objectives and fulfilled many aspirations thanks to the efforts of all the loyal citizens in all walks of life and production sectors, and in the trenches of defense and heroism. They have embodied the solidarity which exists among the masses and the effective participation in mapping out the present and the future, and have exploited all the efforts and the potentialities for the battle of development. Many basic ventures have thus been implemented such as roads, public utilities, and services. Thousands of schools and scores of hospitals, dispensaries, and health centers were established. Pioneering agricultural and industrial projects were also launched.

Production in the agricultural and industrial sphere increased thanks to the efforts our people have exerted and are exerting to emerge from the circle of backwardness and to eliminate the legacy of the odious imamate rule. The cooperative movement in cooperation with the government worked to push ahead development and progress, particularly in public services, proceeding from the determination of our people and their creative interaction. This makes us reaffirm the importance of the future role of local councils to develop the cooperative movement in the sphere of the construction of dams and water barriers, the maintenance of roads and educational institutions, and other services and projects to complement the role the government institutions are undertaking.

Brother citizens, the establishment of democratic institutions is an integral part of the operation to complete the edification of the modern centralized state, the state of order and law under whose canopy all the institutions and bodies pool their efforts to build a strong and prosperous society, achieve comprehensive development, and mobilize all the national resources in the service of comprehensive development that will secure a prosperous future for our people and for future generations. This makes the government dutybound to double its efforts to assume its momentous responsibilities for serving the homeland and the citizens, and to pursue the implementation of important and strategic projects that are included in the third 5-year economic and social development plan. All the sons of our people have participated in the formulation of this plan and in determining its priorities.

In embodiment of the principle of popular participation on the road to democracy, development, and Yemeni unity; and to devote attention to the formation of the individual who is the basic pillar and objective of development, education must be channeled to respond to the needs of development plans, and the expansion in the establishment of technical and specialized institutes. Care must also be given to the preparation of the Yemeni teacher—by offering him all the incentives and the facilities that will enable him to perform his national duty of cultivating good citizens—and to the upgrading of services offered to citzens, particularly in the sphere of medical care.

All this calls for work from the hospitals, dispensaries, and health centers that have already been established in the admistrative units. These utilities must contribute to providing health services to the citizens, and relieve them of the burden of proceeding to major cities for treatment. The surplus of doctors in cities should be used so that that they may carry out their human and national duty toward their fellow citizens in the countryside.

Brothers, development is our people's main issue in the current phase. National duty calls upon everyone to do their best to achieve the objectives of the third 5-year plan. This plan aims at carrying out productive industrial and agricultural projects to achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency, tackle economic problems, stabilize prices, improve the living standard of all the sons of the people, encourage and protect national industries and handicrafts, develop the state's general resources, develop civil administration, and achieve administrative progress in order to eliminate all obstacles and negative points and tackle all affairs with a sense of national responsibility.

The 5-year plan also sets the rules to ensure the improvement of performance, the increase of production, and the organization of appointment, training, control, and inspection, and the application of the principle of reward and punishment so there will be a balance between rights and duties and general performance will be enhanced in all government departments according to current modern scientific standards. On this occasion, I would like to emphasize the importance of the national capital increasing its role in development to strengthen the national economy and create new job opportunities for the national manpower.

At the same time, we urge the government to offer all facilities and assistance to private sector farmers and investors in the field of agriculture and those industries depending on national raw materials. We also urge the government to constantly revise investment policy in light of all new changes and developments so that investment procedures will be clearly defined to the investors.

Brothers, the 26th year of the revolution witnessed further prospecting and drilling operations for oil and gas in the Ma'rib-Al-Jawf basin. New oilfields were discovered, thereby increasing our known oil deposits. Preparations are now underway to exploit these oilfields next year and ink them to the marketing installations. The quantities of natural gas have also doubled. Natural gas deposits have reached 5.5 trillion cubic feet. The prospecting and drilling continues both in the Ma'rib-Al-Jawf basin and in the central region, where drilling is underway. Toward the end of this year, God willing, work will begin to drill another oil-well in the off-shore area between Al-Mukha and Al-Kufah.

The plans and programs to exploit this wealth will depend on the results of prospecting for oil and gas. All the revenues of this wealth will be used in development plans, especially agricultural development and the building of the individual. Brothers, the revolution is determined to achieve all aspirations, increase the rates of economic and social growth, protect liberties, and enhance democracy through the constitutional and popular institutions. This should end for good all the diseases of political vacuum, narrow-minded affiliations, and illegitimate aspirations, and ensure political security for our people at home and abroad. National unity today is stronger than at any time before. Political action based on the charter is now capable of exposing and confronting all irresponsible fabrications whatever their slogans.

Brother citizens, one of the main objectives of the immortal September revolution is to build a strong national army to defend the country and protect the revolution and its national gains. The achievement of this main and important objective will continue to be a national and pan-Arab duty. This is because the Armed Forces and the security forces are the means by which the revolution and the people protect the gains, maintain security and stability, and defend the homeland's sovereignty. It is essential to continue to pay attention to these forces so they can perform their national duties and responsibilities.

Therefore, efforts will continue to increase the defense capability of our country. The Armed Forces and the security forces will continue to be developed, trained, and organized according to the requirements of the times and because they are the shield of the revolution and the republic that is ever ready to deal with any harmful attempt to our country. Brothers, our people's celebration of the 26th anniversary of the glorious 26 September revolution becomes more meaningful as we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the glorious 14 October revolution. Our Yemeni people in the the two parts of the homeland continued to fight for rendering this revolution a success against colonialism. They continued to fight until they wrested victory represented in the independence of the southern part of the homeland on 30 November 1967. The festivities and celebrations held on these two occasions acquire special importance in view of the important achievements that were scored on the road to unity action.

Thanks to God and the cooperation with our brothers in the southern part of our homeland, and through the various unity meetings, we have succeeded in making large and important strides on the road to unity. The most important of these steps were the blessed meetings that took place in Sanaa, the capital of the unity state, and the movement of citizens between the two parts with identity cards with all freedom and tranquility. This triumph constitutes a forceful blow against all the illusory aprehensions that used to dominate the minds of those who had doubted unity action and future Yemeni unity.

We reaffirm the joint responsibility that the leaders in the two parts of the homeland bear to protect all unity achievements, and to proceed with unity action toward more effective measures until we attain the most cherished objectives of our people represented in Yemeni unity. We must achieve this through democratic and peaceful means and through the constitutional institutions in the two parts of the homeland to which the draft constitution of the unity state will be referred, and through the popular referendum in which our people will have their clear say on the constitution.

On this occasion which is dear to our hearts, we would like to affirm that we shall support all the loyal and sincere men in the two parts of the homeland, and will relentlessly work through dialogue and continuous meetings to achieve unity—the strategic objective of the Yemeni revolution. Our people will demonstrate that they are the model to be copied in the protection of all their national achievements and in safeguarding the security and stability of Yemeni unity, as well as its independence and sovereignty.

Brothers, what distinguishes unity action is that it resorts to the method of peaceful and democratic dialogue, far from irresponsibility and fear because we adopt the course of dialogue and unity. A Yemeni unity based on all that has been agreed upon between the two parts of the homeland and on firmly-entrenched principles of trust and understanding, is the unity to which our masses aspire. We, in the two parts of the homeland, are determined to proceed with our free and independent national will and with a courageous national decision toward the attainment of the strategic and important objective—the proclamation of the unity state soon, God willing.

Brother citizens, the integrated national edifice is organically linked to the enhancement of Yemen's status and the development of its role on the Arab, Islamic, and international level. There is no doubt that our country's relations with fraternal and friendly countries have become closer and have produced positive results. These results have bolstered the process of development and construction in our country. They have also achieved important victories for our Arab and Islamic nation, and have championed just humanitarian rights. From this premise, we will devote our efforts in this stage to develop our country's foreign relations and to constantly promote them according to the principles of the glorious 26 September revolution and the contents of the national charter.

We will continue to enhance our country's special relations with our brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and in the Arabian Gulf, as well as with all the other fraternal countries. We will pursue our efforts with our brothers in the Arab homeland to unite stands, enhance Arab solidarity, and confront the perils that our nation faces and that are fragmenting the Arab nation and plundering its resources. We will also pursue efforts to take serious action to end the legacies we inherited from colonialism—such as the elimination of the fabricated borders which colonialism had set up to separate parts of the same country, and to overcome the differences the Zionist and imperialist forces, and all our Arab nation's enemies have brought about.

By doing this, we will confirm the historical fact that the Arab land is one, that there can be no borders or barriers among the various parts of the same Arab homeland, and that history dictates us to attain comprehensive Arab unity. We must also work to prevent our being dragged into the colonialist machinations and schemes, or becoming preoccupied with the attainment of the Arab nation's strategic and principal objectives of unity and the liberation of the territories that were occupied by the usurper Zionist entity.

From this premise, our country will continue to be fully concerned about supporting joint Arab action, enhancing the role of the Arab League—its organizations, and commitments to its charter—and supporting just Arab causes. These causes are headed by the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and the great popular revolution that has prevailed throughout the occupied Arab homeland in Palestine despite all the Zionist entity's plots and repressive means to destroy this youthful revolution.

This revolution has managed to stir the world conscience about the tragedy of the defenseless sons of Palestine in the occupied land. It also managed to expose the aggressive, settlement, and expansionist reality of the racist Zionist system. Our people's support for the Palestinian revolution will continue until the Palestinian Arab people fully regain their legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the PLO.

Brothers, the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war used to constitute great concern for our country. This prompted our country to issue continuous appeals to the two warring sides to stop that losing war out of concern for the interests of the two Muslim, neighboring peoples and the safety of their sons. Our country was greatly satisfied with the cease-fire and the resort to dialogue and direct negotiations to settle the disputes between the two countries to achieve security and stability for the two peoples and the region.

We affirmed that we in the YAR support the will of peace, truth, and justice. With the same concern, we will work to promote our country's relations with all world states on a firm ground of mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and our country's higher interests. We want to emphasize the principles of peaceful coexistence among nations and solve disputes through peaceful means to avoid the dangers of wars and disputes and to distribute resources for peaceful purposes that serve humanity and secure life and stability.

Our country will also continue efforts to consolidate its presence and effective participation in international and regional organizations. Our country will continue to be committed to its stands supporting national liberation movements and peace issues and to its stands on combating racism in the world. Our country will be committed in that to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the UN Charter. It will support all efforts to achieve detente in international relations and curb the nuclear arms race so that peace and security may prevail throughout the world.

Brothers, on this dear occasion, I address thanks to the brothers citizens for their contribution to aiding their brothers in fraternal Sudan who were harmed by floods. That response has expressed our people's deep belief in the instructions of Islam, the genuine pan-Arab spirit of our people, and the importance of fateful cohesion among the sons of the one Arab nation. We stress our people's stand alongside their brothers in the Arab and Islamic homeland in all circumstances and cases according to their available and moderate resources and in response to their religious and national duty.

Brothers, the greatness of the immortal 26 September revolution is that it is a revolution of continuous achievements and it stems from the conscience of our struggling people. It will continue to be deep-rooted in the conscience of the Yemeni individual for whom it achieved all his aspirations of dignity and pride on his land. Out of faithfulness, we always remember that had it not been for the great sacrifices of our people, righteous martyrs, and all honorable strugglers, our country would not have reached this level of progress and development.

Therefore, we, the government, and all official and popular apparatuses are dutybound to increase our care for the families of the martyrs of the revolution, the Republic, and national struggle who fell on the path of freedom before and after the revolution. This is in recognition of the September revolution generation for the sacrifices of those martyrs who fell to the sake of national liberation to secure an honorable and dignified life for the citizens.

Brothers, finally, I cannot miss saluting our brother expatriates who have contributed and continue to contribute toward the development of their country. I greet the faithful heroes in the Armed Forces and security forces who carry out their national obligations in their positions throughout the Yemeni land. I greet all honest men who deny themselves for the sake of the people and exert their utmost capabilities in production for the sake of Yemen, its progress, and unity. I call on all the sons of our people for further vigilance and concern for the gains of the revolution and the republican system. God willing, we will march forward unified and cooperative toward a prosperous future, relying on God, ourselves, our unity, and intrinsic resources, to achieve all our people's hopes and aspirations. We beseech God for support and success. He is capable of everything. Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

London Paper Interviews Hammadi on Negotiations

LD2609100588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT inArabic 23 Sep 88 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi by Zaki Musa in London; date not given]

[Text] [Musa] Has a decision been seriously made to divert the Shatt al-'Arab? What is the nature of the project and when will it be implemented?

[Hammadi] This matter is under study and in the initial stages. I cannot go into any details.

[Musa] It seems that there was a conflict of views during your meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe. What issues did you disagree on?

[Hammadi] They talked about chemical weapons and we explained the motives behind the campaign and explained that the Americans have produced no evidence and in fact have no evidence. The important thing I said to them was that they should not base their stand on the U.S. stand. The British themselves have no evidence and it is unreasonable to base their stand on positions of others.

[Musa] Was the question of Iraq's refusal to receive UN fact-finding observers raised?

[Hammadi] Yes. He asked that question and I told him we reject such a step because it would constitute a precedence of interference in the internal affairs of other states—on this matter and any other matter. For example, a campaign could be launched against Iraq tomorrow claiming, say, ill treatment of Kurds or any other group of citizens by Iraq, and maintaining that a fact-finding commission should be sent there. The same thing might also apply to other states.

Iraq does not want a precedent, at the United Nations or in international relations, that would entitle a number of states to launch a media campaign against one state and then request a commission to investigate an internal matter that concerns that particular state. Today the clamor is about chemical weapons, tomorrow it might be about something else, like saying: You have not allowed a fact-finding commission to investigate the conditions of our Christian brothers. Would the United States allow a committee to investigate the conditions of the black minority in that country?

[Musa] How do you view the U.S. backtracking on this issue?

[Hammadi] I believe that the campaign will recede because there is no proof to back it up. They launched it and got involved because of the elections. American politicians are accustomed to this. There is upstaging, and both the Democrats and the Republicans say many things they do not mean. When they sensed that the Iraqi position on this matter was strong and when Iraq turned the issue against them and demanded that they produce evidence, which they do not have, the backtracking process began.

[Musa] Will the British position on this matter affect trade cooperation between the two countries in the future?

[Hammadi] That would depend on their attitude. We study any steps by any state against us and take the appropriate position. I say that no hostile attitude toward us will be met with silence. We will react. The nature of our reaction will be determined when such a thing does happen.

[Musa] Were trade relations discussed at the meeting?

[Hammadi] No, they were not.

[Musa] What point have the Geneva negotiations reached?

[Hammadi] They have reached the point where the Iranians want to enjoy free navigation and use of their ports as a result of the cease-fire without us enjoying the same right of free navigation in the Gulf. They want free navigation but do not want us to have the same. They deny Iraqi ships freedom of navigation. They also do not want the United Nations to commence the clearing operation in Shatt al-'Arab because they think that this is a trump card in their hands which they could use to pressure Iraq. We did explain to them that the Shatt al-'Arab clearing operation is a technical—not legal—one and that it has nothing to do with who owns the Shatt al-'Arab and who has sovereignty over it. That is a technical operation that should begin now because when the negotiations are over we will have gone some way in clearing the Shatt. They want to suspend this issue so that it may be used as a pressure card.

[Musa] Does Iraq support the transfer of the negotiating venue to New York?

[Hammadi] We believe that Geneva is a much better venue than New York which, in my view, is not suitable for these or any other negotiations, for many reasons. The first reason is that there is no security there—there is a security problem. The second is media interference and an atmosphere fraught with rumors and media pressure. Third, there is a campaign against us in the United States and we would not be in an equal position with the other side. Also, it was originally agreed that Geneva would be the venue for the negotiations, like all other world negotiations.

[Musa] Would you expect the war to flare up again if the negotiations deadlock?

[Hammadi] If the Iranians deliberately bring the negotiations to a halt then they would have to bear the consequences. We hope it would not come to that, but should that happen due to Iranian intransigence, then Iran will have to bear all the consequences.

[Musa] On Syria, are new efforts being made after what has become of King Husayn's efforts?

[Hammadi] No, there are not.

[Musa] You are considered one of the main architects of the 1975 Algiers agreement. After 8 years of fighting, what is Iraq's position on that agreement?

[Hammadi] As you well know, the agreement was abrogated by Iran immediately after Khomeyni assumed power. They abrogated it with statements by Khomeyni in Paris both before and after he went to Tehran and statements by all other Iranian officials including the foreign minister and [former] President Bani-Sadr. The Iranian regime violated the main provisions of that agreement such as noninterference in domestic affairs, ending support for the Kurds, and giving up the Iraqi territories occupied in the days of the Shah.

[Musa] How does Iraq assess the attitude of the Arab states—especially the Gulf states—and their support for Iraq during the war?

[Hammadi] It was a good, cooperative, understanding, and positive attitude which we highly appreciate.

Mexican Socialist Party Delegation Visits

JN2409155188 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 24, INA—Talks began here today between the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party (ABSP) and the Mexican Socialist Party. The talks were reported to have dealt with developments of the Iraq-Iran conflict, direct negotiations between the two countries on reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace as well as means for bolstering relations between the two parties.

The ABSP delegation was led by the director of Foreign Relations Office of the Pan-Arab Leadership while the Mexican delegation was led by Jesus Zambrani, member of the Socialist Party's national Executive Council [name and title as received]. The Mexican delegation arrived here last night at the invitation of the ABSP's Pan-Arab Leadership

Hasan 'Ali Meets Delegates

JN2509134288 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 25, INA—Member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and general secretary of the Patriotic and Progressive National Front, Mr. Hasan 'Ali, met here today with the delegation of the Mexican Socialist Party headed by Mr. Jesus Zambrani member of the party's Executive National Council. [name and title as received]

Mr. 'Ali reviewed for the Mexican delegation the great achievements of the 17-30 July Revolution under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in various fields including the front charter, oil nationalization and issuing the law of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in Iraq. Mr. Zambrani praised the experiment of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its achievements for the Iraqi people.

Ramadan Makes Statement, Leaves for YAR

JN2509143688 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad Sept 25, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's first deputy premier, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan left here today for Sanaa on a visit to the Yemen Arab Republic to participate in the celebrations of the 26th anniversary of the Yemeni revolution. Mr. Ramadan Told INA that he will convey during the visit greetings and congratulations of President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni people on this occasion which opened for the Yemeni brotherly people the doors of progress and the prospects of prosperous present and future. He said that participating [with] the Yemeni brothers in their celebrations on the 26th anniversary of their revolution comes in implementation of President Saddam Husayn's instructions and the trend of the 17 July revolution to participate with the Arab brothers in all their national occasions [words indistinct]

Mr. Ramadan expressed the satisfaction of the Iraqi leadership and people with the developed relations with the Yemen Arab Republic. He also expressed Iraq's leadership and people's appreciation for the Yemeni brotherly attitude in support of Iraq during the years of defending the national sovereignty, the Arab right and the eastern front of the Arab homeland. Iraq's first deputy premier said that he will discuss during the visit means of expanding and developing bilateral cooperation in various fields especially after Iraq had entered a new stage through its great victories and inflicting bitter defeat on the Khomeynist enemy.

Oil Minister Makes Statement, Leaves for Kuwait

JN2509153488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1508 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim left for Kuwait this afternoon at the head of a delegation. He will also visit a number of Arabian Gulf countries. 'Abd al-Rahim told INA that the visit is part of a series of meetings held by the oil ministers of the OPEC member states in general and by the Arabian Gulf member states in particular to exchange views on how to achieve stability in the world oil market and stop the current deterioration in prices. 'Abd al-Rahim pointed out that he would discuss how to promote relations between Iraq and the Arabian Gulf countries in oil industry and the exchange of expertise.

Peres, Reagan, 'Abd al-Majid Meet in New York

TA2609201188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Telephone interview with U.S. correspondent Shim'on Schiffer by moderator Menashe Raz in the studio—live]

[Text] [Raz] U.S. President Ronald Reagan this evening called on Israel to find a way to stretch its hand out to the Palestinians and reach an agreement with them. President Reagan conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in New York a short time ago. Reagan said Egypt has the ability to help both sides arrive at a settlement. At the end of the meeting, the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers agreed to pursue the contacts with the participation of the U.S. secretary of state in a bid to budge the peace process, notwithstanding the short time left until the elections in Israel and the United States. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer will report from New York. Good evening, Shim'on.

[Schiffer] Good evening.

[Raz] Perhaps to begin with, you could tell us what happened at the meeting.

[Schiffer] The most important point of the meeting may be that this three-way meeting between President Reagan and the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers took place at all. President Reagan insisted that the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Camp David accords may be the best time to reexamine where the accords between Israel and its neighbors are headed.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid reported on a toning down in the PLO's positions. Minister Peres promptly reacted to this statement by saying that one should not be impressed by the sweet talk of the PLO leaders and rather should look at their vicious actions.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided to set up a team that would deal with the procedures and moves to keep up this process until the time of the elections in Israel and the United States.

[Raz] Is there any concrete issue at all that is likely to budge the peace process before the elections?

[Schiffer] That is at least the impression that the participants in the meeting wanted to create: Despite the upcoming elections, the peace process can be promoted. They want to keep up the hopes because they believe this could lead to less violence in the region. Later in the week Secretary Shultz will again confer with Foreign Minister Peres and the Egyptian foreign minister. The Israeli and Egyptian ministers will also meet again, in a bid to see what else can be done. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 26 September in its report on the meeting adds: "At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister Peres said that in his opinion he had achieved more than he had expected. He pointed out that a joint communique about the conditions and the infrastructure for the continuation of the peace process had been agreed in the meeting."]

Peres Comments on Talks

TA2709072288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Shim'on Schiffer "immediately after the meeting with President Reagan" in New York on 26 September—recorded]

[Text] [Schiffer] Mr Peres, what was the importance of the meeting with President Reagan and the Egyptian foreign minister?

[Peres] The meeting had political significance, because it comprised the greatest superpower, the most important Arab country in the region, and the only Jewish country in the world. Despite the intensive activity of the PLO in Europe and elsewhere, we reiterated the three conditions from September 1988 [date as heard]: an end to violence, terrorism, and threats—and this is acceptable both to the President and to 'Abd al-Majid; acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338—which is not to be confused with 181; and recognition of Israel's right to live in peace and security. I consider this extremely important, in light of the flood of sweet talk flowing from every direction. Moreover, the current U.S. Administration is responsible for U.S. policy for the next 4 months. This is an extremely sensitive period, with many changes taking place, and I think it is extremely important to coordinate during these 4 months to avoid any surprises.

[Schiffer] Do you still believe this process can be advanced during the next 4 months, considering it has not moved for the last 8 years?

[Peres] First, I think it has moved—it has advanced greatly. Even the Palestinians do not hold the positions they held at that time. At that time they believed they would overcome Israel by force; this illusion has died out.

[Schiffer] So you believe that the process can be advanced in the next 4 months?

[Peres] I think we should guarantee conditions of nonviolence, nonaggression, and nonpressure. I would like to make sure that the superpowers will not pressure us and will not come up with a strategy that would lead to aggression. The arms race is also a problem. All the sides must take a stand against violence. We must not settle for acquiring weapons to keep us on a par; we must create the conditions that will prevent a mad arms race.

We are very interested in portraying Israel in the best and most accurate light, and here we had an opportunity to do just that.

[Schiffer] Over the past few days you gave several interviews to the foreign press, speaking about the conditions for a dialogue with the PLO. Various things have been published in this regard, among them remarks that you will not examine the biography of the Palestinians who will come to the negotiations. Are you preparing for the possibility of speaking with PLO officials?

[Peres] No. What I am trying to do is explain to the world that the problems between us and the Palestinians are not Israel's fault, but rather the PLO's, and that all the existing difficulties have been created by the PLO. It finds it very difficult to decide on a division of the country and of the people between itself and the Jordanians. I see no reason for us to draw the fire in our direction.

Tabah Arbitration Team Rules in Egypt's Favor

TA2709053588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Israel has lost the Tabah arbitration. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has learned that the international team of arbitrators has determined that the controversial point, known on the maps as 91-E, will be marked according to the Egyptian marking, and therefore the hotel and the holiday village will become Egyptian territory. The arbitrators are having difficulty locating the border point known as Parker, and it has been suggested that Israel removed the border marking from this location.

The arbitration verdict will be officially issued in Geneva in 2 days, in the presence of the Israeli and Egyptian representatives. The Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers have promised President Reagan they will honor the Tabah arbitration verdict.

Further Negotiations Possible

TA2709113788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] With the international arbitration commission's decision on the Tabah dispute, due to be announced on Thursday, differences have sharpened between the Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry circles over the manner in which the verdict is to be implemented. Jack Katzenell reports:

For months already, it has been the accepted wisdom in Jerusalem that Israel has lost the Tabah arbitration. It is true that officials of the Prime Minister's Office have been putting a bold face on it, saying nothing is certain yet and accusing their counterparts from the Foreign Ministry—without actually naming them—of trying to influence the arbitrators against Israel for political reasons. Even the Foreign Ministry spokesman's office told me this morning that a last-minute surprise is not impossible. However, other Foreign Ministry sources have long since stopped denying the persistent reports that the international commission has decided in Egypt's favor.

So why did a senior official see fit last night to say that the verdict will be unequivocal and will leave no room for Israeli maneuvers aimed at avoiding or delaying its implementation? This, apparently, was in response to the statement by Dr Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, that although Israel always keeps her international commitments, nothing can supersede her national sovereignty and there will have to be negotiations on the arbitrators' verdict.

The implication is that after the commission rules on where the missing boundary stone used to be, Israel and Egypt will have to negotiate on how to draw the line from that location to the shoreline. However, in the view of the senior official, there is just no way the line can pass south of the Sonesta Hotel, if the commission decides that the missing stone was on the headland where Egypt said it was, and Israel will only harm relations with Egypt if it prevaricates.

'Far-Reaching Progress' With PRC Reported

TA2709105588 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Sep 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] On the eve of the meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and the Chinese foreign minister today in New York, official political sources in Jerusalem said that far-reaching progress has been made in contacts between Israel and the PRC and that delegations have been visiting both countries.

Peres will propose to his Chinese counterpart that diplomatic relations with Israel be established. The PRC has so far rejected all the Israeli appeals, making relations conditional upon Israel's acceptance of an international peace conference. Foreign Ministry people believe there are chances that the PRC will agree to thaw relations with Israel and will agree to establish gradual relations with Israel in a way similar to the Soviet example: by sending a consular delegation that will turn into a medium-level permanent delegation.

Foreign Ministry people believe the PRC might agree to exchanging interests offices with Israel. A senior PRC official who recently met Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir said that China will recognize Israel and establish diplomatic relations with it once Israel agrees to an international conference. Tamir, who is coordinating the contacts with China in the Foreign Ministry, has already held several meetings with Chinese diplomats abroad.

The Israeli representation in Hong Kong is responsible for the direct contacts with China; over the past 2 years it has scored significant achievements. Political sources reported that over the past year there has been a significant rise in the extent of economic and trade links with China.

A delegation of Chinese experts recently visited Israel and a delegation of Israeli professors visited China. The Chinese are especially interested in industrial and technological development and in agriculture and medicine. [passage omitted]

Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist' Targets in Lebanon

TA2709093988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets in the central sector of southern Lebanon this morning. All the planes returned safely after destroying the targets. This is reported by the IDF spokesman. The targets, located west of the village Al-Luwayza, served as bases for planning and perpetrating attacks in the security zone.

Leaflet No 26 Embraces Sinyurah's Demands

TA2609194188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The PLO today embraced the list of 14 demands posed by Hanna Sinyurah and other figures in the territories as far back as the beginning of the uprising in the territories. Among other things, the list includes a demand to hold elections to the municipal authorities, abolishing the collection of value added tax in the territories, canceling the administrative detention order, and pulling IDF troops out of Arab locations.

The list of 14 demands is for the first time today included in leaflet No. 26 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. It should be pointed out that previous leaflets had indirectly denounced Sinyurah and his positions.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Police Disperse Riot

TA2609113588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The police are now dispersing inhabitants of Jabal al-Mukabar near Jerusalem who rioted and hurled stones. Our correspondent Yosi Koren reports that the police are using tear gas and rubber bullets, and are moving forces into the area.

Youth Killed During Riot

TA2609123988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A 19-year-old youth was killed during riots in Jabal al-Mukabar near Jerusalem. Relatives snatched the body and brought it to Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Koren reports that during the morning some 20 youths gathered in the center of the village, burned tires and hurled stones. It seems that only a small Border Police force was stationed in the village at the time, and was forced to open fire. The police said the Border Policemen fired rubber bullets, but the inhabitants told our correspondent that live ammunition was used.

A funeral procession accompanied by disturbances and tire burning is now taking place in the center of the village. A large police force is standing by. [passage omitted]

14 Arrested; 24 Injured

TA2609154088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Fourteen local residents were arrested today in the course of clashes with police troops in the village of Jabal al-Mukabar near Jerusalem. The area is presently quiet, but large numbers of police and border forces are still conducting patrols.

This afternoon, Deputy Commander Yosef Yehuday, commander of the Jerusalem District, told our correspondent Yosi Qoren that in his opinion Jamal Mattar Shuqayr, who was killed in the course of the riots in the village today, had not been hit by police gunfire. According to Yehuday, the policemen were standing more than 250 meters away from the youngsters who had gathered in the center of the village.

A physician at the East Jerusalem hospital where the body of the youth was taken said Shuqayr had only been hit in the mouth, and it is unclear by what. That is why the district commander believes the youth may have been hit by one of the tear gas canisters which were thrown in the area. Deputy Commander Yehuday emphasized that the policemen of the company on duty in the village would be questioned and the investigation would be very thorough. If the circumstances of the death remained unclear, the body of the youth would be exhumed to undergo a forensic examination.

Riots also took place today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in the course of which 24 people were injured. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the inhabitants of the territories called a general strike and staged demonstrations in solidarity with the Arab detainees held at Qezi'ot.

Our correspondent adds that so far 14 wounded have been reported in the Gaza Strip and 10 in Judaea and Samaria. Arab sources, on the other hand, say that a far larger number of casualties has been brought to hospitals throughout Judaea and Samaria.

2 Killed, 29 Wounded

TA2609193588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpt] IDF sources report that 2 people were killed, and over 29 were wounded by gunfire, including 3 who sustained serious injuries, in a day of serious riots in the territories and in East Jerusalem. Arab sources told our correspondent about 40 wounded, including 3 who were seriously wounded.

A military spokesman told our correspondent that the body of a resident of Gaza killed by gunfire had been brought to Al-Shifa' Hospital. An initial check shows that IDF troops were not present in the area where the man was killed. The second fatality was a resident of Jabal al-Mukabar in East Jerusalem who was killed earlier in the day in clashes between rioters and border policemen. [passage omitted]

IDF Gunfire Kills Youth

TA2709055688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Three people have been killed and at least 26 wounded in riots in the territories and East Jerusalem over the holiday. A youth was killed during a riot in Bayt Surik, near Ramallah. An IDF force entered the village to carry out detentions. Local residents stoned the soldiers, and the commander of the force was forced to use gunfire. A youth was wounded by the shots and later died of his wounds. [passage omitted]

Mosad Blamed for Killing Palestinian Scientist

JN2609105488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 26 Sep (WAKH)—Press reports published here today said that the agents of the Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, last Thursday assassinated a Palestinian nuclear scientist holding Italian citzenship, during a visit to one of his friends in the city of Tampa in the U.S. state of Florida. AL-RAYAH quoted informed sources in the United States as saying that Mosad agents had been pursuing the Palestinian scientist 'Umar Mahmud Abu Khudayr for a long time. They took advantage of his presence in the United States and shot him dead. These sources affirmed to AL-RAYAH that the U.S. authorites did not begin any investigations into the assassination of the Palestinian scientist.

In another development, the newspaper disclosed an attempt recently by Israeli intelligence agents to detonate a booby-trapped car in Cairo to kill two technicians working on a project to produce an Egyptian-Iraqi-Argentine 1,000-km range missile. The paper cited a Western diplomat in Cairo as saying that some of the technicians understood the message from the explosion which took place recently and left Egypt. Meanwhile, the Egyptian intelligence is now maintaining strict security measures to protect the technicians who remained in Cairo.

King Husayn, Queen Nur Return From Visit to UK

JN2609175588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Sep

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur returned to the homeland this afternoon after a visit to the UK, during which he held talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the situation in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf as well as a number of international issues in light of the international detente and its impact on regional issues. They also discussed relations between the two friendly countries.

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife at their place of residence in London yesterday. The two leaders made a comprehensive assessment of the situation in the Arab arena and how to enhance Arab solidarity and coordinate positions in the interest of the Arab causes.

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur, accompanied by a number of Jordanian officials, visited the annual air exhibition organized by the British air industry consortium. They acquainted themselves with the latest productions of the world's countries in the space industry area and attended air shows by the most modern planes from various world countries.

During the visit to the British capital, his majesty was the focus of extensive attention of international television networks and press, which conducted interviews with his majesty on Jordan's position on many current Arab and international issues.

Their majesties were received at Amman Airport by his majesty's personal representative Prince Muhammad, Crown Prince Hasan, a number of the royal family members, the prime minister, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, his majesty's special secretary, the senate president's assistant, the ministers, senior military and civilian officials, the UK ambassador in Amman, and the new Egyptian ambassador. Returning with their majesties were the Royal Hashemite Court chief and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Prime Minister Returns From Visit to Baghdad

JN2409174788 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman this evening after paying a short visit to Iraq. During the visit, he met with His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and conveyed to him King Husayn's greetings. [passage omitted]

The prime minister was received upon his return by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education, and a number of ministers.

British Conservative Party Delegation Visits

Sees Prince Hasan

JN2409162288 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] His Royal Higness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received today the British Conservative Party delegation currently visiting Jordan. His royal highness briefed the delegation members on the basics governing Jordan's policy regarding the Arab-Israeli dispute. He also explained to them the reason that has prompted Jordan to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

The meeting was attended by the president of the Royal Scientific Society and the British ambassador in Amman.

Meets With Qatanani

JN2509165188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Amman—Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, has reviewed the services and facilities of the department—pursuant to the government's instructions—to benefit the Palestinian citizens of the occupied Palestinian territories to help them overcome the daily problems they face due to the continued Israeli occupation of their territories.

During his reception today of the Conservative Party delegation from the British Commons, he also reviewed the department's tasks in helping and assisting the occupied territories' citizens in all fields to consolidate their steadfastness against daily pressure from the Israeli occupation authorities.

He said the Jordanian Government is continuing its participation in the work and activities of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to enable the Palestinian citizens to remain steadfast on their territory. He pointed out the existing cooperation between the Jordanian Government and the UNRWA to provide services for [Palestinian] camps in the Kingdom.

'Some' West Bank Projects Reportedly To Continue

JN2409200788 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 22 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—According to Palestinian sources in the occupied territory, AL-ITTIHAD has learned that despite its announcement of the cancellation of the economic and social development plan for the occupied territories, Jordan is still spending on some of the plan's projects which were initiated before announcing the disengagement with the West Bank.

The sources pointed out that Jordan will spend around 2 million Jordanian dinars on these projects, which include schools, hospitals, and roads, in an attempt to provide job opportunities for citizens of the occupied territory.

Port Official on Aqaba Port, Iraqi Commodities

JN2409150788 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Sep 88 p 8

[By Ahmad Salamah]

[Excerpts] Aqaba—'Id al-Fayiz, director general of the Port Authority, has denied that the halt to the Iraqi-Iran war will harm the port of Aqaba. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Al-Fayiz asserted that the port of Aqaba, which—upon the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn—stood beside fraternal Iraq during the war, will also stand beside Iraq in the battle of development and reconstruction.

Al-Fayiz said Jordan received definite affirmations from the highest levels in fraternal Iraq that the port of Aqaba will remain a main port for Iraqi imports and exports in the coming years. He added that the port of Aqaba began to promote its infrastructure to accomodate the new Iraqi commodities that will be exported for the first time through this port such as sulfur and super tri-phosphate. The first ship to carry exported Iraqi sulfur was loaded the day before yesterday, Thursday. [passage omitted]

The Port Authority director general appealed to all clearance, shipping, transportation, and services companies to do their best in this phase to present the image required of them—an image entrenched throughout the war that should continue during the phase of construction. He also appealed to some of these companies to not resort to speculations, blackmail, and subjective competition. He said the Port Authority is about to build a special jetty to export all Iraqi commodities that have a special character such as liquid materials like sulfur and super tri-phosphate.

The Jordanian Government still pays special attention to the building of jetties to deal with Iraqi commodities and to continue not imposing any delay fines on these commodities as a result of stay or the awaiting of ships at the port as was the case throughout the war. Al-Fayiz said that in 1987 and 1988 no delay fines were imposed on Iraqi commodities and the port of Aqaba will continue to adopt this policy. Moreover, Iraqi commodities will still receive special priority in import and export. As is known, the delivery of Iraqi commodities is exempted from storage fees, he added.

The Port Authority director general said the trucks operating on the Aqaba-Baghdad line total 12,500. This means Aqaba receives 800-1,000 trucks daily which carry 25,000-35,000 tonnes. Al-Fayiz asserted that the Port Authority wants to increase the number of trucks to serve the Jordanian national economy because doing so will give the national income direct revenues. [passage omitted]

Anti-Drug Unit Director on Drug Seizures

JN2609121088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
26 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Public Security Department's (PSD) anti-narcotics unit has seized 371.5 kilogrammes of hashish, half a kilo of heroin, 10 drug syringes, and 30 samplings of Indian cannabis in operations carried out against smugglers in the past three months, according to the unit Director Ghalib al-Zu'bi.

Al-Zu'bi said that in the past three months the police in Jordan had helped security departments in a neighbouring Arab state bust drug trafficking rings, resulting in the seizure of other quantities of drugs.

A total of 51 persons, including non-Jordanians, were involved in 23 drug trafficking cases, according to Al-Zu'bi. He said that the traffickers followed various methods for smuggling and distributing drugs inside or outside the country, but their attempts ended in failure and to their capture.

Unit officers succeded in the past few years in busting several drug smuggling attempts in which professional traffickers from Jordan and foreign countries were involved, Al-Zu'bi noted. Most of the drugs, he said, were being smuggled through Jordanian territory which served as a transit zone for marketing the illicit goods.

Referring to operations in other countires, Al-Zu'bi said that his unit had assisted a neighbouring Arab country to seize 300 kilogrammes of hashish and helped France seize one kilo of heroin.

'Awn Memo to U.S. Embassy on Helicopter Flights

NC2709100288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, 27 Sep (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-LIWA' reported today that General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, has conveyed a memorandum to U.S. Embassy security officials saying that U.S. military helicopters will not be allowed to land in the U.S. Embassy courtyard in 'Awkar in the eastern area. Citing informed sources, which were not identified, the paper said that Gen 'Awn asked the U.S. security officials to use the Adma airbase when employing these aircraft for transportation between the embassy and Cyprus. The sources emphasized that the Lebanese Army has been entrusted with implementing the memorandum's contents, the purpose of which is to place the U.S. diplomats' movements and helicopters under Gen 'Awn's direct supervision. [passage omitted]

Beirut Notes Restrictions

NC2709111988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has prevented U.S. helicopters from flying to and from the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar. Gen 'Awn has asked the embassy to abide by the instructions of the Lebanese Air Force with regard to the flights of U.S. helicopters. He also informed the embassy that landing and takeoff operations should take place at Adma Air base. The embassy also was asked to inform the Lebanese authorities about the movements of U.S. civilians, who should obtain entry visas from public security organs, regardless of their status.

Gunmen Obstruct U.S. Ambassador's Motorcade

NC2709111488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] As the motorcade of the new U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, John McCarthy, was trying to cross into West Beirut, where the U.S. ambassador was to hold a meeting with Prime Minister al-Huss, armed civilians riding in a jeep overtook the motorcade and prevented it from crossing at the Museum Crossing point. However, the motorcade proceeded upon the ambassador's instructions. One of the escort cars stayed behind to resolve the dispute with the gunmen. Upon McCarthy's arrival at the home of Dr al-Huss, contacts were held with the Defense Ministry and security officials to resolve the situation. The car and guards are still being held by the gunmen.

'Official Security Source' on Motorcade Incident

NC2709163588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Contrary to reports carried by some radio stations in West Beirut about an incident involving the U.S. ambassador's motorcade at the Museum crossing, an official security source has made the following statement:

First, the 5th Brigade is not deployed in the Museum area. The 9th Brigade is deployed there and has the authority to maintain security in the area; and

Second, what really happened was that one of the vehicles escorting the U.S. ambassador's motocade reached the crossing point somewhat later than the rest of the motorcade and almost crashed into an officer's car, which was crossing the barrier from the other side. Consequently, this vehicle fell behind the rest of motorcade. A discussion ensued between the personnel manning the checkpoint and the ambassador's escorts. The matter was subsequently settled. There was absolutely no use of firearms.

U.S. Ambassador Meets Al-Huss, Al-Husayni

NC2709122488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] New U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy today visited West Beirut, where he first met with Salim al-Huss and then with Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

McCarthy pointed out that his visit falls within the framework of consultations with Lebanese leaders. He declared his agreement with Al-Huss on several points, particularly the need to elect a new president in Lebanon. The U.S. ambassador said that we discussed this matter in detail and studied ways to bring about this election. He disclosed that he will assess the situation with various leaders, with whom he will meet in the next few days. McCarthy emphasized that his statement in Bkirki yesterday had been distorted, adding: Yesterday I had asked: Who does not make mistakes? McCarthy had, in the statement he made in Bkirki yesterday, referred to mistakes which the United States had made in Lebanon.

Following his meeting with Speaker al-Husayni, McCarthy replied to a question by saying: I hope you will not jump to conclusions with regard to the arrangements of my visit because they are totally based on available opportunities and security measures. On a possible meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, McCarthy said: I hope so. He denied that Gary Hart is an official U.S. envoy to Damascus. He also denied having any information that the U.S. is to send an envoy to Lebanon and Syria.

U.S. Diplomat To Leave Beirut 'Shortly'

NC2709112588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Informed sources have stated that Daniel Simpson, the first secretary at the U.S. Embassy, will leave Beirut shortly. The sources indicated that the U.S. Administration may have summoned him. The newspaper L'ORIENT LE JOUR reported today that Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, has sent

the U.S. Administration, through Bustrus Palace [Lebanese Foreign ministry], a memorandum protesting and criticizing the activity of the U.S. diplomat.

Communist Party Leader on McCarthy Statements

NC2709162788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi has commented on the statement made by new U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy after visiting Bkirki yesterday. Hawi said: It is strange and surprising that the new U.S. ambassador to Lebanon should begin his activities by admitting mistakes in U.S. policy. However, what is the use of this admission, which is similar to that of a doctor admitting a mistake after the patient has died. It is very likely there was no mistake in the U.S actions, the purpose of which was to achieve Lebanon's partition, turning it into a hotbed to exhaust the Lebanese national forces, Syria, and the PLO at a time when the United States is preparing to resume its initiative for solving the Middle East crisis: the imposition of its full control over the region in cooperation with its strategic ally Israel.

'Awn Chairs Cabinet Meeting, Views Situation

NC2709151988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers today reviewed the general situation in the country during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn. Gen 'Awn expressed satisfaction at the people's rallying around the new government, noting that this has been demonstrated by communications from various Lebanese areas. 'Awn added that the members of the government had given briefings on the results of their contacts and the functioning of their ministries. He said he had briefed the ministers on the results of his contacts with foreign and Arab ambassadors and the contents of memorandums he had sent.

It has been decided to hold cabinet meetings every Tuesday and Friday at 1000. A decision was also made to ask the Army command and the Internal Security Forces General Directorate to submit draft decrees for the promotion of those officers whose promotions have been held up for 3 years, to correct this injustice. The cabinet also urged employees to report to their jobs and abide by working hours. A written memorandum to this effect will be distributed. 'Awn said that there are other matters which will be discussed with each official in turn at the second cabinet meeting. These issues will be publicized in due course. Prime Minister 'Awn announced that the promotions will not include public security officers. He said that he has decided to meet with the [ministries'] directors general at 0900 on Friday.

Concerning U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy's statement regarding U.S. errors and the fact that credentials are usually presented to a president, 'Awn said: When I meet with him we will discuss this issue. Regarding reports of an attempt to prevent U.S. helicopters from flying to and from the U.S. Embassy, 'Awn said: There are no new arrangements. The current arrangements are the normal ones. However, there are regulations which must be observed on Lebanese territory. In conclusion, 'Awn answered a question by saying: At the beginning of the cabinet meeting I warned that extending recognition to a de facto government might lead to the recognition of other governments which represent a certain de facto situation, and this might lead the homeland to very difficult times. Hence, I draw the attention of all political and diplomatic personnel to this dangerous point.

'Awn Dismisses Army Intelligence Chief

NC2709055488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Military sources have stated that General Michel 'Awn, in his capacity as Army commander, has dismissed Colonel Simon Qassis, chief of the Lebanese Army Intelligence Department, and has appointed Col 'Amir Shihab in his place. He also has appointed Col Francois Zayn to replace Col Louis Qassis as commander of the Republican Guard. Major Fu'ad al-Ashqar has become chief of the Army Security Department, replacing Lieutenant Colonel George Shahwan.

According to the same sources, the post of the chief of the Army Strategic Department, which used to be occupied by Col Muhammad Zaydan, has become vacant.

'Awn Issues Circular No 2 on Public Decrees

NC2709145188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Major General 'Awn today issued Circular No. 2, demanding that public departments and establishments prepare draft decrees starting with the preamble: In accordance with the Constitution, particularly Article 62, the Cabinet... This version replaces the term president of the Republic with Cabinet. All decrees will be signed by all ministers.

Mufti's Office Rejects 'Awn Circular

NC2509132588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] In reply to Circular No 1 issued by Army Commander Michel 'Awn, Dr Husayn al-Quwatli, director general of the Mufti's office, today issued a circular demanding that the presidents of the Islamic sharia courts, sharia judges, and all other officials of Islamic institutions deal with the legitimate quarter represented by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. Al-Quwatli said that General 'Awn's circular addresses all Islamic institutions and is a very serious paper which seeks to subject these institutions to the whims of Maronite politics.

Forces Reiterate 'Awn Government Legitimacy

NC2709143588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council has emphasized that the only legitimate authority in Lebanon is that of the cabinet headed by General Michel 'Awn. The council said that any talk about other governments has no constitutional, legitimate, or legal value and is merely an attempt by groups with no legal basis to create a separatist situation, not only to justify partition but to serve as a Trojan horse in a plan for annexing vast areas of Lebanon to Syria. Following the weekly meeting of its Command Council under the chairmansip of Dr Samir Ja'ja', the Command Council said that all decisions by the Al-Sana'i' grouping [Al-Huss cabinet] in the western area are unconstitutional and illegitimate. The Forces reiterated their loyalty to the integrity of Lebanese territory and the unity of the Lebanese constitutional legitimacy represented by the legitimate cabinet.

District Official on Obeying 'Awn's Instructions

NC2609115688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The district commissioner of Kasrawan, Talal Rashid, has issued a circular to government departments, municipalities, public authorities, and heads of villages in his district. The circular reads as follows:

In implementation of Circular No 1 issued by his excellency the prime minister and to eliminate any ambiquity, all employyes of government departments, public authorities, and municipalities, as well as all heads of villages in Qada' Kasrawan are required to obey the instructions of the legitimate government, which was formed in accordance with the Lebanese constitution under Major General Michel 'Awn. Public officials are forbidden from acknowledging any memoranda, instructions, or orders issued by the former government, which no longer has any constitutional authority. The Kasrawan district commissioner expressed his hope that public servants will strictly observe his circular so that there will be no disruption in public work. He noted that any violation of this order by any employee is a punishable offense.

Al-Jumayyil Telephones Al-Huss on Situation

NC2609112788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] It was announced today that former president Amin al-Jumayyil has held a lengthy telephone conversation with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. It has been reported that the former president briefed Dr al-Huss on his efforts to prevent the situation from reaching the current deadlock. He expressed appreciation for Dr al-Huss' stand and for his proposals during the negotiations that preceded the formation of the so-called military government.

Al-Jumayyil Calls Officials, Sends Envoy

NC2709055188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Former President Amin al-Jumayyil has started a new round of contacts. He called Chamber Speaker Husayni al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Mufti Hasan Khalid, and Minister Nabih Birri. According to highly placed sources, Al-Jumayyil sent former minister Elie Salim to Damascus, where he will hold talks with Syrian officials on the latest developments in the Lebanese situation.

Nationalist Parties Issue Statement on Conference

NC2609114788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Preparations are underway to convene a general national conference to be attended by political leaders and key figures representing the various sects. Against this background, the nationalist and progressive parties and forces held a meeting at the residence of Eng 'Asim Qansuh [regional secretary of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon] to lay down the guidelines and bases of the conference. The conferees reviewed the latest developments and coordinated efforts to confront the dangers facing the homeland's unity.

The meeting ended a short while ago and the following statement was issued:

1. The nationalist and progressive parties and forces view the step taken by Amin al-Jumayyil during the last 15 minutes of his term, namely the designation of Michel 'Awn to head the so-called military government, as an Israeli decision complementing Al-Jumayyil's policy over the past 6 years. This act expresses the essence of the Phalangist plan which aims to enable Fascism gain full control of the country, or failing that, to partition the country.

2. The nationalist and progressive forces and parties reiterate their support for the government of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss as being the sole legitimate government, representing Lebanon's unity and acting to preserve Lebanon's Arabism and sovereignty;

3. The nationalist and progressive parties and forces believe that in order to confront these divisive plans all nationalist parties, key figures, and personalities who are anxious to preserve the country's unity, Arabism, and democratic development should hold a broad national conference. All representatives of these forces and national areas should attend this conference so that they may confront the sectarian and partitionist step with a decisive national, popular, nonsectarian, undenominational step. Therefore, it has been decided to hold a meeting of the leaders of nationalist parties and forces tomorrow to discuss the best means to carry out a total national confrontation; and

4. The nationalist and progressive parties and forces are confident that the fraternal Arab and friendly states will realize the seriousness of the partitionist step and will avoid having any political, dipldomatic, or economic dealing with the Israeli military coup in Lebanon. Any such dealings will be directed against the overwhelming majority of our people and will help entrench the partitionist act.

Bakhus: Session Venue Contingent on Army Role

NC2709063188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpt] In a statement he made to the NNA this morning, Deputy Auguste Bakhus declared that all deputies will demand that the Chamber session be convened in Al-Najmah Square when the Lebanese Army assumes security for the Chamber premises and for the roads loading to it. This step would deprive the deputies of any pretext not to participate in shouldering their national responsibilities, meeting the constitutional deadline, and bypassing the deadlock facing the country at this critical stage, he added. In his statement, Bakhus went on to say that the Lebanese Army's assumption of security in greater Beirut is the ideal means to end the ongoing argument over the venue of the session. [passage omitted]

Resistance Men Attack 2 Israeli Positions

NC2609142288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Resistance men have attacked two positions manned by the occupation forces and their agents in Al-Qantarah and 'Alman. The Amal Movement said that Katyusha rockets were fired at the Misgav 'am settlement inside the occupied Arab territory. The enemy's forces have continued their bloody shelling of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah. A female citizen was wounded in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah.

Israel Reportedly 'Massing' Troops, Vehicles

NC2709055988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] According to security reports, Israel is massing troops and vehicles between the Kafr Huna triangle and Al-Ahmadiyah, which overlook western Al-Biqa'. The same reports added that an Israeli military delegation led by the commander of the northern sector and including senior officers, toured and inspected the occupation forces' positions along the contact lines in the eastern sector. Meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces have been imposing a tight siege on 'Ayn Ibil over the past 10 days. They are preventing the inhabitants from leaving or entering the town. Reports said that this Israeli step aims to force the inhabitants to make their sons join the militia ranks.

Israeli Aircraft Attack Hizballah Positions

NC2709095988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli military aircraft launched a series of strikes against Hizballah positions in the villages of Al-Luwayzah and Mlita in southern Lebanon today. The air attacks, which began at 1030 and continued until 1200,

Further on Air Attack

NC2709142488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided Islamic resistance positions on the Al-Luwayzah and Mlita hills in Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1130 this morning. The raid lasted about 30 minutes. The raiding warplanes released several thermal balloons to divert any surface to air missiles. It has been reported that one person was wounded. The extent of the damage caused by the new Israeli act of aggression has not been determined. caused casualties and extensive material damage.

Resistance Fighters Mount 'Series of Assaults'

LD2709113188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1016 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 27 (KUNA)—Lebanese resistance fighters mounted a series of assaults Tuesday on the Israeli forces and the militias collaborating with them in the occupied sector of south Lebanon in retaliation to an all night artillery attacks on liberated villages to the north. According to KUNA stringer in the south, the Israelis and their allied militias for three consecutive hours ending at dawn today, fired 155mm and 120mm field artillery shells on the villages of Arab Salim, Jab'a, Jarju', Kafr Matta and Kafr Malki of the Tuffah region east of Sidon causing serious damage to houses and setting fire to the fields.

Responding to the attack, the resistance fighters this morning fired Katyusha and 82 mm mortar shells at Jabel-eafi, Baselia, Jabel-al-Ghuzlan and al-Musayfhah on the dividing line between the liberated and occupied areas setting them ablaze. The Israelis responded today by mobilising troops on the so-called security zone and launching mock raids over the south which were faced by heavy anti-aircraft firing.

Foreign Ministry Protests Israeli Air Raids

NC2409092588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] At the instructions of Dr Salim al-Huss, the prime minister [as heard] and foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry today sent a cable to Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, instructing him to submit a complaint to the UN Security Council against Israel for the air raids which Israeli aircraft carried out yesterday against some areas southeast of Sidon.

Palestinian Spokesman on Israeli Attacks

NC2609080188 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command has stated the following:

For the 3d day running, Israeli naval and air forces have been launching attacks on our camps in southern Lebanon, in addition to imposing a siege on Al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre from the seaward side. Meanwhile, Amal Movement forces continue to besiege the camp from the land. At 0535 on 24 September, as two of our boats were unloading medical equipment and food for our besieged camp, they were intercepted by an Israeli naval force attempting to obstruct the unloading procedure. A 30-minute clash ensued between the enemy naval force and our two vessels. One of our boats was hit and three of those on board were wounded. The fourth, however, managed to reach the besieged camp. At 0615, enemy aircraft carried out 30-minute mock raids over Al-Rashidiyah camp.

PLO Spokesman on Naval Clash in South

JN2509193588 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1736 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Statement by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date, place not given.]

[Text] For the 3d successive day, Israeli naval and air forces have been continuing their acts of aggression against our camps in southern Lebanon. They concentrate their aggression by imposing a naval blockade against the Al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre region at a time when Amal Movement forces continue their land blockade of the camp. At 0535 yesterday, 24 September, two of our boats provided medical and food supplies to the besieged camp. An Israeli naval force intercepted our boats in an attempt to destroy them and prevent them from arriving at the camp. The enemy naval force fired their guns and missiles. The clash continued for about an hour. One of the boats was hit and three of the men on board were injured, while a fourth managed to arrive at the besieged camp. At 0615, Israeli warplanes carried out sorties and mock raids against the Al-Rashidiyah camp. These raids continued until 0645.

Amal, Palestinians Clash East of Sidon

NC2209171088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Sep 88

[Text] Clashes occurred between Amal gunmen and Palestinians on the Maghdushah-Jinsnaya combat lines [east of Sidon] this afternoon. A state of extreme tension and alert currently prevails between the two sides.

Security Situation Flares Up East of Sidon

NC2709142688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] The security situation deteriorated on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-Ayn al-Mir axis east of Sidon at noon today when clashes involving the use of medium-caliber machineguns and rockets broke out.

4 Killed in SLA Shelling of Villages

NC2609061688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] A position of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in Al-Shumariyah came under attack last night. The SLA retaliated by shelling Zawter al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah in Qada' al-Nabatiyah. Four people were killed in shelling.

Fatah Accuses Amal of Killing Palestinian in Camp

NC2509161588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] The Fatah Movement has accused Amal personnel of entering the Al-Qasimiyah camp north of Tyre last Thursday night after the killing of Amal officials on the Al-Awza'i road. Fatah said that the Amal men searched a number of houses in the camp and shot dead Palestinian 'Isam Sa'id Salim.

'Rejection' of Syrian Occupation Continues

Bomb Explodes Near Position

NC2509064388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Rejection of the Syrian occupation is continuing. Last night a bomb made of 3 kg of dynamite exploded near a Syrian checkpoint in Verdun.

'Akkawi Group Claims Bombings

NC2509090588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi group of the 9 February organization has claimed responsibility for planting the bomb which went off near the Syrian checkpoint in Verdun yesterday, saying that one Syrian soldier was injured. The group also claimed responsibility for firing a rocket yesterday at the third floor of the Bristol Hotel, where Robert Franjiyah's office is located. The group also said it detonated a bomb near a Syrian center in Al-Sanawbarah at midnight, injuring two Syrian servicemen. The Syrians, the group added, dismantled another bomb planted near their intelligence center in Al-Rawshah.

Group Claims Grenade Attack

NC2609090388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The Al-Faruq battalion has claimed responsibility for throwing grenades at a Syrian occupation forces position in Tal'at al-Sama'i' in West Beirut at 0400 today.

Al-Shar' Meets CSSR, Ethiopian Ministers at UN

JN2709064988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek this morning on the sidelines of the 43d UN General Assembly session. The discussion dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the CSSR, and the current situation in the region. Al-Shar' also met with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Qaddurah Returns From IPU Sofia Conference

JN2709065388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A People's Assembly delegation under Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah returned from Sofia this evening after participating in the 80th IPU conference which convened in Sofia 19-24 September. Qaddurah and his accompanying delegation were welcomed at Damascus international airport by Dr 'Ali Rida, People's Assembly deputy speaker; Assembly bureau members, heads of Assembly committees, and Assembly members. [passage omitted]

Media Reacts to Military Government in Lebanon

Lacks 'Legitimacy and Quorum'

JN2409070888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Press review]

[Text] Today's newspapers deal with the meetings, consultations, and intensive contacts in Lebanon to discuss the new developments and to find ways to face the crisis which emerged in the country as a result of forming a military government. The Syrian newspapers also highlight the Lebanese national, progressive, and spiritual forces' rejection of the military government and their adherence to the present government of Dr Salim al-Huss as a legitimate government. These forces, quarters, and figures consider the government that was announced a military coup d'etat and a partition step and a dead government which lacks legitimacy and quorum.

The following headlines appear in today's newspapers: "The National Forces Have Faced the Partition Government by Closing Their Ranks To Safeguard the Unity of Lebanese Territory, People, and Institutions"; "A Call for a Comprehensive National Meeting To Save Lebanon From the Dangers of Partition and To Confront 'Awn's Government"; "Al-Huss Government To Meet Today in Preparation for a National Meeting To Bypass Lebanon's Impasse"; "Syria is an Impregnable Wall in the Face of the Schemes To Place Lebanon Under Israeli Hegemony."

Under the headline "Lebanon Is the People's Legitimacy, Not the Usurpation of the Zionist Clique," TISHRIN says: Today, amid the dangers threatening Lebanon as a result of obstructing the presidential elections and attempting to fill the so-called constitutional vacuum with a crippled military government that smacks of fascism and Zionist terrorism, the responsibility of the Lebanese majority,—demonstrated on the ground of reality—is represented by safeguarding the constitutional situation, legitimacy, and presidential elections within the national framework as well as by aborting the scheme of the Zionist fascist clique through adhering to the national solution, option, and charter. This will obstruct and abort the conspiracy. This will also obstruct the Zionist enemy's ambitions and option to divide and destroy Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: When dangers threaten the homeland, the only option is to exercise the people's will and decision, which constitute the source of legitimacy for each stand and action. Fourteen years of an abnormal situation should not produce a new hotbed to liquidate all the achievements of the brothers in Lebanon through their sacrifices, pains, and general trend to safeguard a united and Arab Lebanon to enter the stage of construction and stability and to expel Israeli invaders. Syria reiterates what President al-Asad said: Syria is with all Lebanese and extends to them assistance and fraternity to safeguard Lebanon, its unity, and independence and to achieve its security and stability. This is what Syria has been achieving since 1976.

Under the headline "Lebanon's Unity will Triumph," AL-THAWRAH says: The comprehensive national Lebanese response to the new partition step and the intensive national and honest Lebanese efforts to confront the dangers of this step did not come because this step is a military coup d'etat and illegitimate government only but because this step is considered a stab from the rear to all honest efforts to hold the constitutional elections and elect a new president for Lebanon—a president who can embark on the march of salvation and reconciliation and place the Lebanese on the path of comprehensive national salvation.

The Lebanese people and their national and honest forces cannot accept any partition. They are eager and struggle to entrench the unity of the Lebanese people and territory. Therefore, the recent partition step—condemned and rejected—cannot find any components for success. This step carries with it the seeds of bitter defeat. This step is a link in the Zionist chain which is hostile to Lebanon and its people. The Lebanese people are for the unity of their territory and their sons and for the national reconciliation and unity within which all good efforts are being exerted to liberate the south from Israeli occupation and to move with firmness and strength to achieve political and social reforms and rehabilitate and build Lebanon.

This is Lebanon—now and in the future. Lebanon's people and territory will remain united within its Arab environment. Those who imagine that if they implement Israel's schemes they can tamper with Lebanon's fate are mistaken, and their fate will only be a failure. The will of the Lebanese people, their honest sons, and the national and pan-Arab forces, is stronger than all conspiracies. Those involved in the Zionist schemes and their tools cannot escape the consequences that could result from their partition and terrorist steps.

'Usurps' Freedom of Citizens

JN2409161288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: A small minority in Lebanon prevented the Chamber of Deputies from carrying out its constitutional and national role to elect a new president for the republic to take over the presidential powers when the constitutional term of the former president is over. This minority disrupted the first elections session through illegitimate means and by employing force and terrorism to prevent deputies from reaching the session's venue and their participation in the providing the required quorum to hold the session and to elect a new president for the Republic.

This minority—in reality a very small minority even in the areas were it usurps the freedom of citizens and the functions of governmental and municipal institutions, that is the functions of legitimacy—has allowed itself, contrary to the provisions of the constitution, laws, and values, to reject the names of certain candidates for the presidency. This minority had the guts to announce its intentions and objectives and face the proposal of nominating the candidacy of a deputy, who was not within the sphere of provocative and illegitimate rejection, by rejecting this new name. It seems that it will reject any other name that may be presented from among the candidates who are accepted by the deputies and people and who have enough qualifications and abilities, which, if elected, will enable them to make the post of presidency an effective factor in the starting of national dialogue in order to reach the national reconciliation and the national solution to the Lebanese crisis.

This minority practices gangster acts and usurps the state's authority, the citizen's freedom, and the homeland's unity and hope in preserving and strengthening this unity. It acts against legitimacy and its representatives, against all those who call for rationalism and realism, against all those who are working to escape from the crises they forced on Lebanon, against all those who believe that Lebanon cannot fly except with both wings, and against those who believe that there is no solution in Lebanon except the national solution resulting from national reconciliation. This minority's acts and its stands on realistic solutions and proposals that can be implemented, affirm that this minority does not act in the interest of Lebanon, despite their songs of praise for it. They also affirm that this minority does not want to save Lebanon from its crisis, despite their claim that they want reconciliation, and does not look forward to Lebanon's unity, despite its talk about the 10,000 square km.

The only explanation for these acts and stands is that those who pursue them open contact lines with Lebanon's enemies behind the armistice line. They receive the signals, instructions, and plans from there. They are walking along a path that has no horizon or hope in the future. For those who tread on it, this path will only lead to suicide. Division is inconceivable and prohibited in Lebanon; sectarian and factional ghettos cannot live in Lebanon; and alliance with Israel and the enemies of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs is not accepted either by Lebanon, Syria, or the Arabs.

The calls for division, separation, and seclusion, are non-Lebanese calls even if those who make them try to give them a phony legitimate image, even if they usurped for them a thousand military or civilian ministries, and even if they dress these calls in Lebanese national costume. The identity of these calls is not Lebanese and they cannot succeed in Lebanon, because the Lebanese—all Lebanese—are very concerned for their country's unity—in territory and people—for its independence, and for the security and safety of every Lebanese citizen. They are capable of ending the crimes of those who are tying themselves to Lebanon's enemies and to their plots and unrealistic dreams.

Termed 'New Conspiracy'

JN2509090588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms that the military government formed in the minutes preceeding the end of Amin al-Jumayyil's presidential term, came into being as a result of new situations. However, those advocating the partitioning of Lebanon say that the government came about because of the failure to elect a new president for the country. This talk and these hollow justifications can never be true, as those who are making these allegations are the ones who obstructed the Chamber of Deputies' session. They are the ones who prevented the deputies from exercising their right to elect the most capable president, especially at the 18 August session.

AL-BA'TH adds: It has become very clear that Michel 'Awn and those supporting him have not read the histories of any people who were plagued with plights similar to those which plague the Lebanese people. Had they read what happened to General Van Thieu in Saigon, they certainly would not have dared to do what they have done. Truly, 'Awn's coup, and secessionist military government are exclusively tasked with implementing what Israel has failed to achieve. However, it is

also true, nay, certain that this game—the new conspiracy—will not be allowed to succeed. The Lebanese masses which thwarted the 17 May agreement, defeated the NATO fleets, and also defeated the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon will lie in wait for this minority. The day will come when this minority will find itself in a situation worse than that experienced by Gen Thieu and his group which sold itself to the enemies of the homeland and the people.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same issue and affirms that this is not the first time the Zionized isolationists in the Lebanese arena attempted to deal blows to the historic opportunities available to redeem Lebanon and place it on the rails of national salvation. The record of these factions is replete with obstructing opportunities and torpedoing circumstances which surfaced at more than one phase and during which national reconciliation could have been attained. AL-THAWRAH indicates that the frail military government—its form, the way it was born, and its timing—is not only a coup against the Lebanese constitutional institutions and laws, but also a coup against the historic opportunity that presented itself to the truly sincere Lebanese parties to elect a new Lebanese president who would pave the way for bringing about reconciliation and work for the sake of achieving redemption and salvation.

Since this is the task of the illegal and illegitimate coup government which was born with two halves—one half rejecting the appointment while the other half is rejected—this government will remain the government that has shaped Israel's scheme to exacerbate the Lebanese situation and push it toward new lanes to serve Israel's purposes and objectives to fragment Lebanon and turn it into frail sectarian entities that can be easily comandeered and controlled.

Since this is the task and function of the coup government, the task of the Lebanese under these circumstances is confined to toppling this government to pave the way for destroying the Zionist scheme it is pursuing. There can be no room for talking about reconciliation under this government which will attempt to impose itself as a de facto government. The Lebanese must undercut this de facto situation and expedite its destruction and frustration in order to create a de facto national situation emanating from the Lebanese people's will to preserve their land's unity and Lebanon's national entity—away from the sabotaging Israeli role which finds the mercenary isolationist factions suitable for carrying out its partition scheme.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The honorable Lebanese will know the correct choice at this turning point and will adhere to the priority of toppling this distorted government and the isolationist coupists who hide behind misleading and misguided slogans to pursue their exposed Zionist scheme.

Vice President Mashariqah Visits Poland

For Damascus radio and Polish media accounts of the visit to Poland by a Syrian delegation led by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, including meetings with Polish United Workers Party First Secretary Jaruzelski and the signing of a cooperation accord, see the Poland section of the 23 September East Europe Daily Report and subsequent issues.

Afghanistan

Powerful Explosion at Base Kills 40 Kabul Troops

BK2609155388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] According to a report, a powerful explosion took place at the base of the 11th Army Division of the Kabul regime at Samarkhel in western Nangarhar in which 40 troops were killed and 200 injured. The Samarkhel base is about 25 kilometers away from the Jalalabad cantonment. According to news agencies reports, the explosion caused fire in ammunition depot and projectiles rained all over the area. Many military barracks and quarters were destroyed.

According to another report the mujahidin shot down a aircraft near Paghman. The Kabul regime conducted heavy raids on this area following its occupation by the mujahidin.

Najibullah Presents Medals to Cosmonauts

LD2609211988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners: Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, today presented Sun of Freedom and Star of Heroism medals to the Afghan and Soviet cosmonauts at a ceremony. [passage omitted]

[Begin Najibullah recording] Esteemed friends, we are gathered here in this hall for this happy and grand event. Today, Kabul and all Afghanistan welcomes the arrival of the participants of the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight and the standby crew. Vladimir Lyakhov, commander of the spaceship and 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand, the first Afghan cosmonaut, fulfilled the planned program of joint orbital research and experience. They worked 6 days together with Vladimir Titov, Musakhi Manarov, and Valeriy Polyakov in the Mir station. Comrades Lyakhov and Mohmand showed gallantry during their difficult mission.

On the basis of the will of the noble people of Afghanistan, and for the successful implementation of their space flight and expressions of gallantry and heroism, a decree by the president of Afghanistan has been issued presenting the title of Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the Sun of Freedom and the Star of Heroism medals to 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand, research cosmonaut; Vladimir Lyakhov, pilot and cosmonaut of the Soviet Union; and Valeriy Polyakov. The Sun of Freedom medal will also be presented to the standby crew of Anatoliy Berezovoy, commander of the spaceship; Muhammad Dawran, and German Arzamazov, research cosmonauts, for their active participation in preparing and ensuring the success of the Soviet-Afghan space flight.

It has been decided to grant the rank of lieutenant to Comrade Mohmand, and the rank of brigadier general to Comrade Duaran. Comrades Vladimir Titov and Musakhi Manarov, the Soviet cosmonauts who are continuing the space mission in the Mir orbit station, have been awarded the Sun of Freedom medal.

We cordially welcome Comrade Klimuk, cosmonaut and twice hero of the Soviet Union; (Badadiazh), representative of the General Space Authority of the Soviet Union; and Comrade Rodin, representative of the USSR Academy of Science. It is a matter of pride for us that the state commission, which was headed by General Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications of the Republic of Afghanistan, played a specific part in the successful accomplishment of the flight.

Afghan journalists who covered this historic event also did their job well. They also deserve appreciation. We will again have the possibility of appreciating the achievements of the Soviet experts who ensured the preparation and fulfillment of the flight.

The research carried out in space has given a new impetus to our national science and will ensure the progress of various sections of the eocnomy of Afghanistan. The joint Afghan-Soviet space flight opens new horizons of cooperation between the people of our two countries. Our traditional friendship, which was founded by Amanullah Khan and Lenin, has reached space zeniths. Like our forefathers, we walk hand in hand and with brotherly internatialism toward peace and progress. The joint Afghan-Soviet space flight occupies a lofty place in Afghanistan's history. This flight was the culmination of a successful year, including the success of the national reconciliation policy, when with the efforts of Afghan patriots and the cooperation of the Soviet Union and the support of world public opinion, the f hard regional knots [words indistinct] has started untangling.

The people of Afghanistan see that Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has accomplished a great task in this direction. We, along with the Soviet Union, accept the Geneva accords without deviation. The Republic of Afghanistan has not violated them. Violations of the agreements by the United States of America and Pakistan have prolonged the misery of the people of Afghanistan, resulting in new victims. Comrade Mohmand noted very well during our space conversation that from earth orbit that no obstacle can be seen in the way of reconciliation. Let these words become a reality here on earth.

On behalf of the people and the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, I congratulate the space heroes from the bottom of my heart on their receiving these medals. I wish you prosperity, health, and new achievements for the welfare of the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. I must now do a most pleasant job, the act of awarding the heroes with these medals of the Republic of Afghanistan. [end recording]

Joint Communique Shows 'Close' Ties With USSR

LD2509100588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 24, BAKHTAR—The joint Afghan-Soviet communique which was concluded at the end of the official and friendly visit of Mohammad Hassan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, is a manifestation of the existence of close relationship between the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and the peoples of the both countries. It also represents a perspective of the growth and consolidation of friendly traditional relations and all-sided economic assistance of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan.

It has been clearly pointed out in joint communique that the Afghan-Soviet ties rest on a sturdy footing, including a mutual desire to achieve a political settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan, the Soviet Union's support for the Afghan leadership's policy of solving intra-Afghan problems peacefully through national accord, a mutual interest in strengthened international peace and security and common approaches to ways of ensuring them.

The Soviet side, stresses the joint communique, is firmly determined to continue giving the Afghan Government effective aid and assistance with a view to preserving and affirming the Republic of Afghanistan as a territorially integral, independent, sovereign non-aligned and neutral state.

In economic aspect, the Soviet Union will render economic assistance which is aimed at country's rehabilitation and the raising of the standard of living of the people.

The side also reaffirmed their complete concurrent views on the significance of the signature of the Geneva agreements. They described it as a powerful force for ending bloodshed and fratricidal war. The communique also stressed that the impact of the Geneva diplomatic process is being felt in Persian Gulf and in the south of Africa, in Nicaragua and in Kampuchea.

The joint communique has pointed out that Afghanistan and the USSR have been honouring all their committments under the Geneva agreements precisely, unfailingly and in good faith.

The joint communique expresses concern over the illegitimate activities of Pakistan which has from the very first day of the Geneva agreements went into force systematically violated it. The Afghan and Soviet sides keep proceeding from the need for Geneva agreements to be strictly observed by all their parties. The joint communique took the view that Pakistan's obstructionist line is unsteadying the balance of interests that underlies the Geneva agreements and jeopardising the realisation of the compromise decisions reached in Geneva for the sake of a peaceful resolution of the external aspects of Afghanistan problem. The joint communique notes that in this case Afghanistan and the Soviet Union reserve the right to take concerted measures which will be dictated by the situation as it shapes.

The communique has appreciated on tireless and courageous efforts by the Afghan Government and political forces in Afghanistan to effect the policy of national reconciliation.

The conclusion of a long term historic program for economic, technical and trade cooperation between the two countries by the year 2000 certainly plays a significant role in the realisation of development projects in all main spheres of national economy.

It is reiterated in the joint Afghan-Soviet communique that the talks between the delegations of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union plays a noteworthy share in the consolidation and expansion of friendship and all-out Afghan-Soviet cooperation.

Jalalar Gives Briefing on Soviet Visit

LD2509205888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] A meeting was held this morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended by a number of ambassadors and charge d'affaires of the embassies in Kabul. Mr Muhammad Khan Jalalar, the minister of commerce, gave a comprehensive briefing in connection with the recent high-level visit of a delegation from the Republic of Afghanistan to the USSR, headed by Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq, and its role in developing mutual relations between the two countries, particularly in the expansion of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

According to another report Muhammad Khan Jalalar, the minister of commerce and a member of the high-ranking Afghan delegation to the Soviet Union, at a news conference today informed journalists about the expansion of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in various areas up to the year 2000. At the conference, which was held in the hall of Storay Palace, the minister of commerce said that the Soviet Union has and continues to give great assistance to Afghanistan, and will help Afghanistan, under the protocols concluded, to rebuild villages, mining, agriculture, energy, culture, and communications.

He added that under the Geneva accords, the UN is scheduled, through its economic organizations under the guidance of Sadruddin Agha Khan, the representative of that organization, to assist the reconstruction and economic projects in Afghanistan to the value of more than $1.2 billion. The greater portion of this assistance will be met by the Soviet Union.

Muhammad Khan Jalalar said that the number of projects and the amount of Soviet assistance to Afghanistan have been discussed in principle and their details would be announced in the future. In conclusion, in connection with the direct assistance of the Soviet Union, he highlighted the expansion of trade between the Afghan provinces and the republics of the Soviet Union, the study of new economic projects, as well as the support of the government and state of the Soviet Union for the present policy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

'Extremists' Fire on Kabul; 7 Killed

LD2609162988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The criminal extremists fired heavy weapons on some residential areas of Kabul city this morning. As a result a number of our compatriots were martyred and injured. According to a BAKHTAR military report, this morning around 1110 hours the extremists elements fired two rounds of rocket projectiles over the residential areas in Ward 9 of Kabul city. As a result seven people, including three children, Amena, Somaira, and Maqsud, and a woman and three men were martyred. Also, 18 children aged between 5-10 years were injured and a car was also burned down. The injured were sent to hospital immediately.

Villages Cleared of Rebels; Missiles Seized

LD2509163388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Continuing the operations by the Armed Forces during past 10 days in the Paghamn District area, the villages of Sargonbad, Qala-e Amir, Koshkak, Betut, Qala-e Borjak, Qala-e Hatem Qala-e Malik, and Cheshma-Bolbol, have been cleared of armed extremists.

According to a BIA military section report, heavy losses were inflicted on the armed extremists, who had concentrated in the surroundings of Paghman District in order to disrupt the peaceful life of the people and in order to launch surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas of Kabul city. Three hundred extremists were killed and 250 seriously injured.

As a result of the crushing blows inflicted on the centers where the extremists were concentrated in Qala-Hakim, Zarshaykh, Koti-e Sotara, Shawal Khel, Khowaja Mosafir and Qol-e Babanur areas, 7 rocket units, 10 recoilless guns, 6 rocket launchers, 7 mortars, 15 light weapons, dozens of antivehicle and antipersonnel mines, four tunnels, and dozens of enemy positions were destroyed. An extremist ammuntion depot was seized which contained dozens of surface-to-surface missiles which were to be fired at the residential areas of Kabul city. In addition one BM-21 unit and one BM-1 unit, were also seized from this depot by the country's Armed Forces.

Armed 'Extremists' Crushed in Lowgar Province

LD2509201788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] The armed extremists groups that had recently entered Pol-e Alam District of Lowgar Province and disrupted the peaceful life of the people by firing heavy weapons were crushed yesterday by the country's armed forces. According to a BIA military section correspondent's report, as a result of these groups' firing of surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas, two children, a woman, and two elderly people were martyred and another six were injured. The country's Armed Forces retaliated and as a result, 46 the saboteurs were killed and 45 others injured. Also three rockets, two DShKs, a mortar, and a recoilless gun were destroyed.

A report from Qandahar Province states that as a result of the operations by the forces of peace in the district of Daman, 19 extremists were killed yesterday and 43 others were injured. Also a recoilless gun, three rocket launchers, and two mortars of the extremists were destroyed.

Security Forces' Operations Reported

LD2609063488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 25, BAKHTAR—The security forces of the country timely prevented from a tragic incident on Jalalabad and Chapliar Khwar highway on Saturday, reports our military correspondent from Nangarhar. [sentence as received]

Four anti-vehicle mines which were planted by the extremists near Hadda farm on the road were timely discovered and defused.

According to another report from Pol-e Khomri District a number of the extremists who wanted to disturb peaceful life of residents of that area by planting anti-personnel mines in crowded areas of that district were arrested today. The accused persons are under investigation.

Ten armed extremists who were carrying out subversive actions in Zarmal and Seyyed Karam Districts of Paktia Province were crushed by the Armed Forces on Saturday.

During the operations which were carried out by the Armed Forces in close cooperation of the residents of the said districts fifteen extremists were wounded seriously and their arms depot destroyed as well.

Internecine Rebel Clashes Intensify

LD2509161288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Armed clashes between extremist bands are intensifying. Over the past 10 days clashes have taken place between the extremist band of Gulbuddin and Jamiyat in Alishing District of Laghman and (?Chesht) and

Robat-e Sangi District of Herat. As a result, 16 of the belligerents were killed and 15 others were seriously wounded. During the clashes five Rabbani group members were captured by the Gulbuddin band, the group that has perpetuated the armed clashes between them.

Life Returning to Normal in Konduz
LD2409180688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sept 23, BAKHTAR—The rehabilitation work of Konduz city which had earlier suffered a great damage are earnestly continuing.

Peace and order is prevailing there and the life has become quite normal. So far, the repair and rehabilitation work of the shops which had earlier destroyed by the extremists have progressed by 80 percent.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have full control over the situation. Primary goods are sufficiently provided in the shops and the government bodies have resumed their functioning.

Due to the brutal acts of the extremists, 600 shops, 37 government buildings, one mosque and eight big houses were damaged and the public properties the losses of which amounted to millions of afghanis were destroyed.

The people narrates that the crimes which were committed by extremists in Konduz city not only ran against the human dignity but it was contrary to the norms of the sacred religion of Islam.

Mujahidin Shoot Down Aircraft, Helicopter
BK2709062388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin shot down an aircraft of the Kabul regime near Paghman and a helicopter at Daman region last Wednesday [21 September].

Two days earlier, they attacked a military post near Jalalabad, killing five people and destroying one rocket launcher, one heavy machine gun, two Kalashnikovs, one wireless set and two vehicles.

On the same day, the mujahidin attacked the 466 Commando Brigade in (Mangalwah) area in Qandahar Province, killing 25 Afghan soldiers and destroying two ammunition dumps and two posts.

India

USSR's Yazov Discusses Defense Cooperation
BK2609162288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Mr Dimitriy Yazov, who is now in New Delhi on a 5-day official visit to India, today held preliminary discussions with the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant. They discussed possibilities of cooperation in the field of defense. General Yazov also called on the president, Mr Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. He was with the president for about 40 minutes.

Border Forces Kill 3 'Intruders' in Kashmir
BK2609163188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 26 (AFP)—Indian border forces shot dead three intruders trying to cross from Pakistan to disputed northern Jammu and Kashmir State after an exchange of fire, officials here said Monday. The men, identified by Indian authorities as pro-Pakistani extremist Muslims, were attempting to cross to Indian-held Kashmir in the Titwal sector of the line of actual control between the two countries when Indian troops killed them late Sunday, the officials said. Pakistani troops were contacted and asked to collect the bodies lying on their side of the control line, but refused, the officials in this summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir said.

It was the first such incident reported since September 1, when Indian authorities sealed the control line set during the third and last conflict between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir in 1971 and issued shoot-on-sight orders. The orders were issued after officials here accused Islamabad of sending trained Kashmiri Muslim saboteurs to incite violence in the state. India and Pakistan fought two wars directly over Kashmir in 1947 and 1965, while the third in late 1971 led to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

Rocket Launchers Seized From Punjab 'Hideout'
BK2409045488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab security forces recovered two foreign-made rocket launchers from a house at village Dhaliwal near Patti in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, the raid was conducted on definite information that the house was being used as a terrorist hideout. The house owner has been arrested.

Explosion Damages Railway Track in Andhra Pradesh
BK2609155988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, 18 meters of railway track between (Uppalabai) and (Sirinapalli) stations of the Secunderabad-Nizamabad section was damaged by an

explosion this morning. Naxalites are suspected to be behind the blast. A driver of a goods train first heard the explosion and reported the matter to railway officials. The police are investigating the incident.

'Unidentified People' Fire Rounds Outside Museum
BK2509155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir some unidentified persons fired several rounds outside the government museum in Srinagar last night. A sentry on duty returned the fire. No one was injured. The miscreants managed to escape. AIR's correspondent reports that this is the third incident of firing in the city by unidentified persons in the last 3 days. On Thursday [22 September] the residence of a retired judge was fired at and on Friday firing took place in the vicinity of the police headquarters.

Threat Seen in Growing Ties Between China, Nepal
BK2309135488 Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Sep 88 p 5

[Text] The growing Sino-Nepal interaction in economic and political fields is part of a broader Chinese strategy and has vital security implications for India, reports UNI. Observing that China was basically an Asian power having global ambitions, Mr Chintamani Mahapatra of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi says it could, however, suddenly not leap-frog to the status of a global power and was apparently preoccupied with achieving its immediate goals in the Asian region. In a paper in "STRATEGIC ANALYSIS", an IDSA publication, Mr Mahapatra says unless China asserts itself as a power to be reckoned with in the Asian region, global aspirations will simply be meaningless, but it seems to perceive an Indian threat to its role.

In the paper titled "Nepal in China's South Asian Strategy" the author says although China has been the only Asian member of the elite club of permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and so far the only Asian nuclear power, it was no match for the United States and the Soviet Union in military capabilities and economically it was still one among the myriad developing countries. Mr Mahapatra notes that China could hardly play a significant role in Southeast Asia where American strategic and recently Japanese economic influences are predominant. "Vietnam, and for that matter the whole of Indo-China, is more close to the Soviet Union than any other country in the world, thus the obvious region where China hopes to play a role is South Asia".

Seemingly perceiving an Indian threat to its role in the region, it thus attempts to enter the region in a big way by feeding anti-Indian diet to the smaller nations neighbouring India, Mr Mahapatra says. Noting that China appeared to have succeeded to a large extent in its goal of spreading its influence in South Asia, he says in spite of its penchant for teaching lessons to countries and its crystal clear ambitions to dominate the regional scene it projects itself as the saviour of smaller nations against expansionist powers. Asserting that China's success in this regard may be termed as a positive loss to India, Mr Mahapatra says the former attempts to improve relations with South Asian countries at India's cost.

Conceding that the Chinese presence may not be alarming as yet but still needed to be seriously taken note of, he says China had gradually succeeded in reducing India's influence and increasing its own political and economic presence in Nepal over the years. The author cites the example of Kathmandu-Kodari highway to substantiate his point about the security implications of the Chinese-aided road and highway construction projects in Nepal. Brushing aside the justification that the highway was built to facilitate trade between Nepal and Tibet, he says some observers point out that 90 per cent of Nepal's trade with Tibet passed through Tatopani, which was several hundred kilometres away from Kodari to Lhasa.

From the Indian perspective, however, the strategic significance of this road is marked by the fact that the Chinese forces can now simply march on to Kathmandu within the shortest possible time through this highway. Mr Mahapatra also notes that Chinese has constructed or improved roads linking military stations across India-China, Bhutan-Tibet, Nepal-Tibet and the Sino-Burmese borders. Asserting that the Chinese-built highway in Nepal indicates a significant linkage, he says the Kathmandu-Kodari highway begins from Bhaktapur and ends in Kodari which is very near to Nepal's border with China. The Kathmandu-Bhaktapur highway connects Kathmandu at Thapathali with Bhaktapur at Sallagarhi, the starting point of the Kathmandu-Kodari highway.

Mr Mahapatra says that with a clear geo-political objective in mind the Chinese leaders reversed their policy of hostility towards the new nation of Bangladesh. A narrow stretch of Indian territory separates Bangladesh from China. India, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh meet at this narrow stretch of Indian land. Observing that any analysis of Chinese roads bridges construction activities had to be made in the light of this geographical reality coupled with Beijing's motivations, Mr Mahapatra says a clue to the Chinese motivation may be found in the recent Chinese demand for an assurance from Dhaka that India should not be allowed to make its military supplies across the Bangladesh territory to the northern sector in the wake of hostilities between China and India.

"Indian foreign policy is far too occupied with the western and northwestern sectors of our borders. It needs to pay much greater attention to north and north-east and evolve a sophisticated approach to overcome the threats to its national interest in those parts". Apart from India, China shares land or sea boundaries with 12 other

Asian countries—Afghanistan, DPR [Democratic People's Republic] Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Soviet Union, Bhutan, Burma, Japan, Laos, Mongolia and Nepal.

Paper Reports Growth in Defense Production
BK2509145588 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 88 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 9 (UNI)—The defence production sector is now the second largest industrial complex in India. The value of production has risen from a mere Rs 41 crore in 1961-62 to about Rs 1,500 crore now. Mostly away from public gaze and even media attention, India's defence arsenal has put on formidable muscles in the past decades. Keeping it literally on war footing is a nationwide network of research and development laboratories. In a field where obsolescence is the worst abomination and innovation the best news, India's defence edifice is taking no chances.

The first-ever test-firing of India's tactical surface-to-surface missile "Prithvi" in February tells the tale of giant strides made by India in the field of defence research. India has now joined the select group of four countries which have developed this class of surface-to-surface missiles. "Prithvi" is based completely on indigenous design and development efforts of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and has a range of 250-km with different types of large pay-load warheads. It also has the best warhead-to-weight ratio compared to other missile of this class. The test-firing of "Prithvi" was hailed as a milestone in India's programme to achieve self-reliance in areas of high-technology and of considerable significance to its defence preparedness.

The DRDO laboratory at Hyderabad has already established basic technology for missile systems in solid and liquid propulsion control and in guidance and precision fabrication under the integrated guided missile development programme. The DRDO, the focal point of all scientific and technological aspect of national security, operates through a national network of 45 laboratories. The priority given to defence R and D [Research and Development] is clear from the annual expenditure in defence research which has risen from about Rs 10 crore in 1965 to Rs 223 crore in 1985. In aeronautics, scientists are currently concentrating on the light combat aircraft (LCA) project, pilotless target aircraft (PTA), remotely piloted vehicles (RPVS), gas turbine engines (GTE) and parachutes for various applications.

The design and development of indigenous boosters for launching pilotless aircraft has also been completed. Several major hardware systems, needed for modern warfare, have been developed during the past decade or so. Notable are the prototypes of the main battle tank (MBT), development of a sonar, torpedoes, flight simulators, rocket pods, field guns and anti-tank ammunition. The transfer of technology to Bharat Electronics for the production of low-level surveillance radar has already been complete and work on an improved version "Indra-II" is progressing satisfactorily. Notable achievements of Indian scientists in the field of optical and electro-optical systems include development of low-light-level television, thermal imagers and laser-ranging equipment.

The scientists are at present engaged in investigating advanced optical and electro-optical techniques like holography and fibre-optics for developing an integrated fire-control system for various types of weapon platforms. The areas where computers have a significant role to play have also progressed as software and communication hardware are under development for the proposed computer network to link all DRDO centres. The Indian defence scientists have also contributed to the country's expeditions to Antarctica. Special accommodation for use in the frozen continent, winter clothing and, tools and tablets for converting snow-melted water to potable water were all supplied by the DRDO. Naval guns are in different stages of development. A retarder tail unit with improved nose-fuse has already been developed and its production is under way.

Efforts of the scientists have been more than matched by those involved in the defence production field. Thirty-six ordnance factories all over the country are engaged in meeting the demands of the three services round-the-clock. There are now eight defence public sector undertakings. While seven are wholly government-owned, the eighth, the Goa Shipyards Limited, is only partly owned by the Government. Experts say that in spite of the large industrial base in defence and related industries, India is importing large quantities of military hardware and manufacturing some under licence. "Much has been done, but still more needs to be done as despite having achieved meaningful results in certain areas there are many weaknesses, time consuming procedures, obsolescence and mediocrity."

While obsolescence had to be removed by closing down projects which had low returns, for achieving the task ahead, efforts have to be made to clearly define goals and objectives on a 10 to 15 year perspective. The ordnance factory board set up in 1979 as the apex body watches the functioning and implementation of policies as well as production. Self-sufficiency has been achieved by these ordnance factories in the field of semi-automatic rifles, carbines and their ammunition, 105-mm tank guns for Vijayanta among other things. A large number of components for the Air Force and Navy have also been indigenised. These include 1,000-pound bombs for the Air Force and three inch saluting gun and 4.5 inch barrels with their allied ammunition for the Navy.

Recent production highlights include bulk production of night vision devices for tanks with an improved capability. New projects which have been launched in recent years include infantry combat vehicles factory at Medak, the Bolangir ordnance factory for higher calibre sophisticated ammunition and extension of facilities at the

heavy vehicles factory at Avadi in Tamil Nadu for manufacture of T-72m tanks. India is still importing large quantities of military hardware for manufacturing these under licence and ranks quite high among Third World countries as far as imports are concerned. Earlier, the Soviet Union was the largest supplier of major military hardware to the Third World countries. Along with Iraq and Syria, India was the major buyer.

Briefs

TV Transmitters

The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Krishna Kumar, inaugurated two low-power TV transmitters at Bhawanipatna and Jaipur in Orissa yesterday. He also laid the foundation stone of a high-power TV transmitter and high-power radio station at Bhawanipatna. [Text] [*BK2509083488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Sep 88 BK*]

Iran

Velayati Departs for UN General Assembly Session

LD2709055088 Tehran IRNA in English 0548 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for New York Tuesday morning to attend the 43d session of the United Nations General Assembly. He is to address the Assembly on regional and international issues and will also hold talks with foreign dignitaries. Interviewed before departure Velayati said that the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has expressed hopes to open the third round of Iraq-Iran peace talks alongside the General Assembly session. Velayati said Iran is ready to resume talks but that the main problem is the Baghdad regime which he said is obstructing process of the talks. He said following Iran's accceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 last July the Baghdad regime has been facing a political dilemma and is therefore raising all kinds of pretexts. This, he said, is because Iraq imagined Iran will not accept the resolution and that Baghdad would be able to continue its peace cries.

However, the international community has shown that it could no longer tolerate Iraqi excuses and this will push Baghdad into a difficult position. He stressed that Iraqi is not interested in a comprehensive and just peace. Velayati also confirmed he will hold talks with a number of foreign ministers form the Security Council member states.

Reagan To Urge Review of Geneva Convention

LD2509191888 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 25 Sep 88

["Reagan To Shed 'Crocodile Tears' on Chemical Arms in U.N. Farewell Address"—IRNA Headline]

[Text] London, Sept. 25, IRNA—U.S. President Ronald Reagan is expected to urge for a review of the 1925 Geneva Convention to stop countries violating the treaty, which outlaws the use of poison gases and bacteriological weapons, says a report from New York. According to THE SUNDAY TIMES of London, the U.S. President will make his call at his final valedictory address to the United Nations General Assembly on Monday but will resist from singling out for criticism the transgressor Iraq, whose aggression Washington has continued to support covertly and overtly. It is Iraq's current intensifying use of chemical weapons against its Kurdish minority that has brought growing alarm among Western governments about the dangers of their proliferation even though the Ba'thist regime has been using the deadly gases in its war with Islamic Iran.

For 8 years the international community failed to act against Iraq's use of poison and nerve gas against Iran despite repeated verification from U.S. teams. Some observers here suggest that Reagan's shift is due to pressure from the U.S. Congress to invoke immediate sanctions against Iraq but equally it is seen as offering a sop to Iran at a time the White House is desirous to improve its relations with Tehran. The call from Reagan reportedly is only to urge for a conference to decide how to effectively enforce the exisitng treaty and as such is a compromising gesture that would not offend his country's friendly ties with the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad. It is assumed that the move would undermine the demands being made by Congress and delay the need for urgent action against Iraq, while public attention would be detracted to believe that something positive was being done against the human outcry.

U.S. Threats Against Iraq Termed 'Show'

LD2509213388 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] During the past several weeks, when the regime of Iraq suddenly raided all the northern Iraqi regions, where the Kurds lived, with various kinds of chemical weapons, a new page was opened in the life of this Iraqi ethnic minority. Thousands of killed or wounded as well as about 150,000 refugees, has been the result of a plan that Saddam Husayn has designed for the people of Kurdistan as a retaliatory move. The ruler of Iraq, who is now known by the Western press as the Baghdad butcher, prior to this shame described the massacre of 5,000 residents of Halabjah by deployment of deadly cyanide gas as a revengeful act. [passage omitted]

During the past week, the Americans, in a completely propaganda move, have threatened the regime of Iraq to an economic sanction because of that regime's deployment of chemical weapons. But this show came to an end sooner than it was expected and the Americans announced that Iraq has promised to show commitments towards the international laws from now onwards. The White House, too, which is seriously concerned over the

[word indistinct] unlimited expansion of chemical weapons as a threat against the West, gave up its threat after the Iraqi regime attained its objectives in the Iraqi Kurdistan. The Americans then assured their allies that their security unity with Iraq, which has been established in the course of Iraq's 8-year long war with Iran, has not been broken. Perhaps the arrival of the new American ambassador in Baghdad, at a time when the U.S. condemned Iraq for its deployment of chemical weapons, is a clear sign of this issue.

At any rate, now a bloody page of the fate of the Iraqi Kurdistan's deprived people has been opened; and the process of a rapid and immediate chemical death for 150,000 Kurdish refugees has come to an end and in return they face an obscure future, which for them is a gradual death, something which enjoys no significance from the viewpoint of the White House and the regime of Iraq.

U.S., Israel Plot To Create Anarchy in Lebanon

LD2409190688 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Calculated plots designed by the U.S., Zionism, and related circles is pushing Lebanon to the brink of "an explosion", announced the Foreign Ministry spokesman here Saturday. The Islamic Republic considers the recent developments in Lebanon including the assassination of officials of the Amal movement as a plot aimed at pressuring Lebanese Muslims and progressive countries including Syria, said the spokesman adding that such plots have a wider dimension and not limited to Lebanon itself. Lebanon is at forefront of the anti-global arrogance and anti-Zionist struggle, said the official adding that safeguarding this stronghold from U.S.-Zionist plots is the duty of all regional progressive and Muslim forces.

Free election of a president is among the basic rights of a sovereign state, and Lebanese people have as much right to it as any other independent people said the spokesman adding that this is a common law in the world. Referring to the assassination four days ago of 3 top officials of the Amal Movement, he said the Islamic Republic condemns the act and considers it as a seditious move aimed at creating anarchy in Lebanon.

Commentary on 'Possible' Lebanese Partition

LD2409140588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Station commentary: "Lebanon's Military Cabinet: A Step Toward Partition"]

[Excerpts] With the appointment of Lebanon's Armed Forces' commander to the post of prime minister [as heard], has the way been cleared for a military coup d'etat and the formation of a permanent government to go with it? This question has a place alongside other anxieties as the most important question that can be asked about the present problem of Lebanon and its future. Michel 'Awn, commander of Lebanon's Armed Forces, was appointed prime minister in the last hours of Amin al-Jumayyil's presidency by Al-Jumayyil himself. According to Lebanon's constitution, when the country has no president, the Cabinet takes over responsibility for state affairs. However, the difficulty arises from the fact that the eight-member cabinet of Salim al-Huss has been recognized as having resigned and the new prime minister is a Maronite whose appointment is contrary to political convention which has always chosen a Sunni Muslim as prime minister. [passage omitted]

Thus, the country faces a situation in which a new president has not been appointed, parliamentary sessions have been postponed indefinitely for a third time, the new prime minister is a Maronite and a military person, and the former cabinet—of Salim al-Huss—still considers itself to be legally in power. In other words, and in view of these factors, for the first time in its modern history Lebanon has two governments, each supported by sections of the country's active political forces. In view of the hegemony of various foreign governments of tribes of paramilitary factions in various parts of Lebanon, the partition of that country, which is included in Israel's plans for Lebanon, has been carried out in practice but not yet officially. Now, with the existence of one government in West Beirut and another in East Beirut, the partition of Lebanon has become possible.

The eight-member Salim al-Huss Cabinet is weak: Following the latest developments, two of its ministers have left and another resigned some time ago. This cabinet has really not held a proper meeting for about 3 years. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that through the impasses they have created in parliament and by preventing the election of a new president, Amin al-Jumayyil and the rightist Christians have brought the country to the brink of partition. There are only two alternatives: compromise or violence. It is clear that compromise—taking note of the present conditions in Lebanon when the Lebanese, the majority there, are deprived of their basic rights—should be made both inside and outside that country. And violence may erupt over the idea that the present balance has been disrupted; or, the right-wing Christians together with the army may become weaker, in which case it is clear that Israel will continue to support those who are on its side. Or, the Muslims and those who side with Syria may become weaker and may accept domination. A third option is partition which would be a tragedy for Lebanon and have widespread repercussions over the whole region.

In these sensitive circumstances, a number of the leaders of the Amal movement are being murdered. So, with the possibility of yet another round of clashes between Shi'ite and Shi'ite, or between Shi'ite and Palestinian, and with turmoil and chaos in the south of Lebanon,

another fresh crisis may run parallel with the crisis of the presidency. In the event of the emergence of these clashes, it is clear that those seeking partition of the country will fill their pockets with more profits.

Naval Commander Rejects U.S. Minesweeping Claim
LD2409150688 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan today brushed aside U.S. claims that Iran lacks ability to sweep the Persian Gulf of mines. Malekzadegan pointed [out] that despite the Iraqi mining of the northern waters of the Persian Gulf, Iranian naval units have never hit a mine during the eight years of war, and this is while U.S. units run into mines in spite of their modern minesweeping technique. He said if Iran's minesweeping power is merely a claim, how could it happen "our marine lanes were always open and Iran's export-import activities never came to a halt." Iran is equipped with modern RH minesweeping helicopters which is another proof of the baselessness of U.S. claims, said Malekzadegan.

The commander said mines generally witnessed in the Persian Gulf are of mechanised types which could be traced and defused with the simplest equipment. Sonic or magnetic mines that require complicated electronic systems were never observed in Persian Gulf waters, he added. Rear Admiral Malekzadegan said the minesweepers "Riyaz" and "Karkas" were operating in the northern and central parts of the Persian Gulf and so far 50 nautical square miles of Persian Gulf waters have been cleared of mines. Hovercrafts and frogmen are also busy in the operations, which started last Thursday, marking the 8th anniversary of the sacred defence against Iraqi aggression. In conclusion, he said the minesweeping operations are being filmed and would be shown at a proper time.

Besharati, Omani Charge Discuss Gulf Mines
LD2509133988 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—Oman's charge d'affaires Rashid ibn Mubarak al-Advali met with Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Sunday and submitted him a message from Omanese officials. Al-Advali also expressed his country's satisfaction over the Iranian Navy's mine-sweeping operations in the Persian Gulf and expressed hope Iran-Iraq talks on implementing U.N. resolution 598 would be a success. In response, Besharati said Iran's navy, upon orders from the general command headquarters of the armed forces is determined to continue sweeping mines in the Persian Gulf until it achieves the final result.

Besharati, referring to the Geneva peace talks, said the Baghdad regime is being pressured because of its insincerity in establishing a lasting peace. He also wished success for the next round of talks between Iran and Iraq, to be held in New York shortly. The acting foreign minister also called for expansion of the Islamic Republic's ties with the Persian Gulf littoral states.

'Agents' of 'Foreign Government' Arrested
LD2609165188 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 26 Sep 88

["Terrorist Network Busted, 280 Pounds TNT Nabbed in Zahedan"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—Agents of a foreign government assigned to explode 280 pounds of TNT in four sensitive parts of Zahedan, in Baluchestan va Sistan Province, were rounded up within six hours by the Islamic Revolution's Committee (IRC), deputy IRC commander Hoseyn Mirlohi said here today. He said the terrorist gang assigned by world arrogance to carry out sabotage in the eastern parts of the country, had planned to trigger bomb blasts at the site of the Friday prayer in Zahedan, in the first stage of their operations. Within six hours last Thursday, IRC committeemen discovered two Paykan and Jiyan cars each with 70 pounds of TNT concealed in their false bottom. Interrogation of the hirelings led to more explosives hidden in wells and other places.

Three of the arrested are agents of an espionage network of a foreign government, while the six others were local mercenaries in charge of transferring explosives. Some very valuable information was extracted from them on conspiracies planned in eastern Iran to disturb regional security. The IRC official warned enemeies the Iranian people will never succumb to such futile moves and said the country's territorial integrity will never be violated. He also called on transport companies active in the eastern parts to help thwart enemy plots through their vigilance.

Mirzadeh Returns From PRC, Calls Visit 'Success'
LD2709083288 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Deputy Premier for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh returned home Tuesday morning from China where he attended the fourth session of the Irano-Beijing economic commission and held talks with Chinese officials. Speaking to reporters upon arrival he said the annual session was a success and a major step forward on mutual cooperation. Mirzadeh who led a 12-member delegation to the week-long session said it was agreed to boost the volume of bilateral trade for the next year by $100 million bringing the total volume to $600 million. On the outcome of his talks with Chinese officials he said discussions were held on building two power stations in Kerman and Gilan Provinces and opening of Iranian consulate in Shanghai. The two countries are also to cooperate in building of small industries, he added.

On Monday Mirzadeh and the Chinese officials inked an agreement on opening of Iranian consulate in China's main commercial port city of Shanghai. The move is to further enhance political relations between the two countries and also help further expand trade and economic ties. Mirzadeh reminded that during the Iraqi-imposed war China maintained good relations with Iran and in Beijing Chinese officials expressed readiness for post-war reconstruction cooperation.

Va'ezi Departs for Geneva To Discuss UK Ties

LD2609090188 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Ministry official Mahmud Va'ezi left Tehran for Geneva Monday [26 September] morning for normalization of Tehran-London relations. Va'ezi who is in charge of the Western Europe Department of Iran's Foreign Ministry is to meet British undersecretary for the Middle East David Myers in Geneva today. Elsewere in New York later this week, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe is to review outlooks for normalization of Tehran-London relations with the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Tehran-London relations ebbed lower after the culmination to the Islamic Revolution and again fell to its lowest in the wake of the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war and due to London's alignment with Washington in relation with the Iraq-Iran conflict and post-revolution developments in the Islamic Republic and the Middle East.

Preliminary Talks Begin

LD2709133188 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] London, Sept. 27, IRNA—Preliminary talks between Britain and Iran started in Geneva Wednesday [as received] to discuss the normalisation of relations that have been stormy since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. The discussions are a prelude to a meeting in New York Friday between British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his Iranian counterpart Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati after which an upgrading of diplomatic representation is expected to be announced. The main issues on the table at Geneva, where Iran's director general of European affairs at the Foreign Ministry Mahmud Va'ezi will meet British Undersecretary Sir David Myers and head of the Middle East desk, are believed to be on normalising the level of representation, timing of announcements and dispatch of staff.

Britain is said to have received a favourable report from David Reddaway sent on a diplomatic reconnaissance to Tehran 3 weeks ago and the aim of the meetings is believed to be on a full resumption in relations with London understood to be anxious to move quickly. The U.K. for the last 14 months has been without any diplomat in Tehran and reportedly now wants to send a charge d'affaires with several diplomats to make up lost time and re-establish the British Embassy as a full mission for the first time since 1979. According to THE DAILY MAIL, Britain is seemingly so anxious to move that it has eight diplomats already "standing by to fly out to Iran next week." In contrast Iran has always maintained a charge d'affaires in London and the Foreign Office now insists that representation must be based on "strict reciprocity."

Consideration of representation being put higher than charge d'affaires level is thought to be premature, with an exchange of ambassador unlikely for several months. THE LONDON TIMES suggested Tuesday that Britain was looking for a price on agreeing ambassador levels and that the government first wanted some movement on the release of two U.K. spies held in Iranian jails. Previously the press had said that there would be no move from Britain to improve Iranian relations until the two Britons were freed and that Tehran had also used its influence in helping to secure the release of three British hostages in Lebanon.

'Sources' Confirm Aircraft Parts, Spares Sought

LD2509091688 London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Sep 88 p 2

["Iran Hunts for Aircraft Deal"—by Simon O'Dwyer-Russell and Christopher Elliott]

[Text] Iran, desperate to rebuild its shattered forces after the bloody eight-year Gulf War, made informal approaches to European aircraft manufacturers last week, including some in Britain, aimed at securing supplies of spare parts and possibly new airacraft. Iranian sources confirm that the buying spree, launched after the Gulf War ceasefire to coincide with the Tehran Trade Fair, is aimed at forging links with Europe for the supply of vital equipment and a new jet trainer aircraft for their shattered air force. The Iranians are understood to have made informal inquiries to British Aerospace over Britain's Hawk trainer and to the Franco-German consortium which builds the Alpha jet trainer, either of which could be used by Tehran to rebuild its air force.

British Aerospace insisted last night that it had received no formal approach from Iran. However, a spokesman said the company was aware of Iran's "keen interest" in several of its products. Whitehall sources, meanwhile, expressed no surprise that Iran was trying to forge links with British manufacturers in the light of the recent improvement in diplomatic relations between London and Tehran. A key part in the Iranian campaign is being played by Mr Najib Tajik, who, as Iran Air's Manager of Foreign Procurement, moves frequently throughout Europe securing supplies of aircraft spares both for civil and military purposes. Mr Tajik played a vital role throughout the war years in securing suplies of crucial parts which helped keep some of Iran's American-built

F-4 Phantom and F-14 Tomcat aircraft flying. He returned to Iran from Germany last Thursday after being refused a visa to visit Britain by the British Consulate in Dusseldorf.

Although British officials are anxious not to slam doors in Iran's face, especially in view of this week's scheduled meeting in New York between Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and his Iranian counterpart, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, any formal approach from Iran over aircraft supplies is likely, for the time being, to be received cooly in London. The supply of lethal military equipment to Iran is banned, and Britain is anxious not to offend Saudi Arabia which has ordered 7 billion pounds worth of Tornado and Hawk jets from Britain. Despite the Foreign Office sending a junior diplomat to Tehran for the trade fair, which closed last Friday, and the Department of Trade and Industry encouraging companies to trade with postwar Iran, there are outstanding criminal charges against companies which have traded with Tehran in the war years.

In all 14 British businessmen have been arrested and charged with offences related to the illegal exportation of military equipment to Iran. The businessmen, from seven different companies, were arrested after an 18-month investigation by Customs and Excise officers code-named Operation Arni, which was successfully concluded in March. The bulk of the equipment, exported over a three-year period, were spare parts, thought to be worth several million pounds.

Kohl, Genscher Messages Mention Expanded Ties

LD2509093988 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—Following the release of a German hostage in Lebanon, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in separate messages to Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed thanks for Iran's humanitarian efforts. Chancellor Kohl expressed his country's willingness for strengthening Tehran-Bonn cooperation and stressed Germany's efforts to find a peaceful and durable solution for Persian Gulf regional crises. Foreign Minister Genscher emphasized German Government's support for the establishment of a fair and stable peace in the Persian Gulf and announced his country's willingness to expand mutual ties with Iran. The two officials expressed hope that more hostages now in Lebanon would be released through Iran's mediation. Rudolf Cordes kidnapped in Lebanon about 20 months ago was released recently.

Mohtashemi To Make Stopover in Libya

LD2509193988 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi Sunday headed a delegation to Dar es Salaam and Algiers at the invitation of his Tanzanian and Algerian counterparts. In talk with IRNA prior to his departure, Hoj. Mohtashemi said he will exchange views with Tanzanian officials on Iran's experience concerning expatriates and relevent issues as well as training of Tanzanian police force by Iranian police personnel. Police Chief Brigadier General Seyyed Reza Niknezhad [name as received] and officials from various ministries are accompanying the interior minister. Mohtashemi is also scheduled to review developmental plans carried out by the Construction Jihad Ministry in Tanzania. The minister will have a short stopover in Libya during his two-leg tour.

RESALAT Interviews Larijani on Geneva Talks

NC2309064888 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Sep 88 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Dr Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, by unidentified RESALAT correspondents in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] What are the latest developments in the Geneva talks between Iran and Iraq? Is there any truth to the report that they have reached a deadlock?

[Larijani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I do not know whether the term "deadlock" can be applied or not. In any case the pace of the talks has slowed down because Iraq is not ready to work within the framework of Resolution No 598. It is bringing up topics which are outside this framework. Of course, Iraq's motivation for raising such issues is clear. Our position is that Resolution No 598 is a means to reach a durable peace and security in the region and not a means for undertaking aggression against the territorial integrity of a region. Resolution No 598 cannot be used as an instrument for changing borders or endangering and threatening the territorial integrity of any country. This goes against the very substance of the resolution. The UN secretary general and the Security Council members are trying to steer the talks toward their original course once again, in accordance with Resolution No 598.

[Correspondent] What can Iraq's objective be in slowing down the pace of the talks or even suspending them?

[Larijani] In my opinion, Iraq does not stand to gain anything by slowing down the talks. We have always defended our rights very strongly and will continue to do so. The prolongation of the talks will be of no benefit to Iraq. Regarding the venue of the talks, however, Iraq's position is rather absurd, in our opinion. The UN secretary general has been authorized by the Security Council to follow up and implement the resolution. Therefore, the place or manner in which they are to be held is entirely at the discretion of the secretary general. In fact, his powers are even more extensive and he is even authorized to draw up the agenda.

[Correspondent] Are there any countries among the UN Security Council members which support this Iraqi approach to the resolution?

[Larijani] Iraq's attitude is so ridiculous that none of the countries would support it overtly. However, we cannot rule out the possibility of covert support behind the scenes.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, has the secretary general discharged his duties well until now?

[Larijani] The secretary general has made extensive efforts in this regard, but the nature of the talks and Iraq's obstructionism in particular have caused the pace of talks to slow. The parties involved in the talks should move in accordance with the UN secretary general's plan which has been endorsed by the Security Council. In that case the talks would definitely be more beneficial.

[Correspondent] Is Iraq's obstructionism related only to those issues which are reported in the news or is there more to it?

[Larijani] Iraqi obstructionism relates to various points, from disrespect for the cease-fire to its refusal to remain within the framework of the talks specified by the secretary general and the introduction of issues totally detrimental to the nature and substance of the talks. Obstructionism continues even over trivial matters as to where and when the talks should be held.

[Correspondent] Why does the secretary general not announce his plan for the implementation of the resolution so that the party causing the obstruction may be clearly recognized?

[Larijani] The secretary general's implementation plan has been announced and the UN Security Council has repeatedly endorsed it. Naturally, the secretary general is making efforts to put it into effect gradually.

[Correspondent] In principle, in the plan for the implementation of the resolution's clauses, there is a timetable for the commencement of the cease-fire and for the withdrawal of forces. What is the obligation of the Security Council in event the timetable is not followed?

[Larijani] Resolution No 598 places the legal responsibility for implementation on the two parties concerned. The timetable is merely a preliminary for implementation and the resolution can only be implemented if neither party hampers the process. If the secretary general can implement the resolution, then it is to the benefit of Iraq as well as Iran and the region as a whole. Iraq will not gain any advantage from procrastination. Perhaps a situation of an uneasy peace will take hold in the area. This will harm Iraq. Iraq will not gain anything by this behavior.

[Correspondent] Will the improvement of Iran's ties with the West or the Soviet Union have any effect in speeding up the implementation of the resolution?

[Larijani] Our ties with the Soviet Union and other big Socialist countries and also with Western countries had begun to improve much before our acceptance of the resolution. They have followed a systematic path. These ties are based on the strong principles of our foreign policy. Of course, the improvement of our ties with other countries has different effects and it is not unlikely that it could have a favorable effect on the implementation of the resolution, as some of these countries are among the permanent or non-permanent members of the Security Council. However, our ties with other countries are not based on any such considerations. They are forged on the basis of strong principles.

[Correspondent] You referred to the principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy. Could you please further clarify these principles? What is the strategy of our foreign policy?

[Larijani] This is a very fundamental and important topic. We should always base our foreign policy on certain principles. If we do not follow our principles and merely base our moves on the premise that the end justifies the means, or take a pragmatic approach—that is, that in order to attain something we should adopt just any measures—we will be taking the easy way out. Proceeding on the basis of principles has its own advantages. We should not act in accordance with the atmosphere created by propaganda (internal or external) and we should not permit ourselves to be affected by rumors. Principled moves are stronger than ad hoc ones. Our first main principle in foreign policy is the constant fight against infidels; that is, the fight against infidels is one of the strongest bases of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy. This manifests itself in various ways, primarily in our opposition or resistance to hegemonism. Therefore, our foreign policy should be such that it bars the way for domination by the infidel forces in our country or on our nation.

There are many countries today which have as one of their objectives the domination of Iran. It is possible that they do not take any overt steps in this regard or do not consider it an opportune moment. Therefore, whenever they have any dealings with us, we should be on our guard against their desire to dominate us. If they were able to do so, they might even create problems in the government, stage a coup d'etat, or impose another government on us. On the other hand, there are many other countries which function on the basis of mutual respect and reciprocal interests. Among the countries which fall into the first category we can mention the United States. Whenever the United States has any dealings with us, even if it enters through the door of friendship, we must be aware that one of its most important objectives is to dominate us. We should not be simpletons in this regard.

However, there are other countries, such as the PRC, Japan, Germany, and Italy, which do not try to dominate us when they are dealing with us. Our dealings are based on "mutual interests." They respect our sovereignty and our revolution and do not concern themselves with our values. It is possible that they do not approve of our approach to certain matters, but they respect it. We also duly respect their ways even if we may not agree with them.

Our other principle in our foreign policy is the fight against domination in the entire world of Islam. It is our religious duty to assist all Islamic nations to throw off the infidels' yoke. It is possible that you may ask why we give priority to warding off domination of ourselves rather than removing others' domination. Do we consider ourselves a priority as compared with all other Islamic nations? The answer is: Today the Islamic Republic of Iran is not the only Islamic nation. The Islamic Republic is the Mecca, the cradle of Islam where the melody of the revolution was first played. A return to Islam and the Islamic uprising began here. The banner of Islam was unfurled here and as it is the Mecca, its safety takes priority over that of all other Islamic nations.

We cannot confine ourselves to eradicating the scourge of domination only in the Islamic world. It should be eradicated all over the world, so that the world is purged of this curse and the people of the world can hear the voice of truth. In forging ties with other countries, we bear in mind the true nature of those countries and their motives in our assessment and we always center those ties around battling the infidels.

[Correspondent] Does mitigating tension with the West and improving ties have any place in this principle?

[Larijani] Lessening of tension will obviously return once we assess what threats exist against our interests. The first responsibility of every government in the world is the safeguarding of national security. We should not make the mistake of interpreting national security as nationalism or chauvinism, as it does not stem from nationalism or chauvinism. It has no such connection. National security implies lessening the dangers which seriously threaten a country. We should attach greatest priority to national security, as the duty of every government is to safeguard its national security within the framework of its ideological values and ideals.

We have three obligations in safeguarding our national security. First, we should formulate a deterrent defense policy for our system. Second, we should have a special policy for the region to protect all our boundaries and borders. Third, we should have a foreign policy which delineates our policy toward other countries. These three conditions, collectively viewed, make it possible for us to formulate our national security policy. Merely forging diplomatic ties with other countries is not enough; we cannot protect our national security without a strong deterrent defense policy. You cannot have national security in the region without a foreign policy and a defense policy. Therefore, national security is based on these three pillars. We should definitely combat any tension which threatens our national security.

[Correspondent] Is it possible that we may establish something similar to a council or union with the Persian Gulf countries within the framework of national security?

[Larijani] It is important that we have a thesis, a doctrine for the Persian Gulf which is for the benefit of the region. It is based on the security of the Persian Gulf region and does not require a gendarme; this is a collective and regional matter. Our doctrine is based on the concept that the states of the Persian Gulf region are able to live in peace and cooperation on the condition that they respect one another's sovereignty. The territorial integrity of the region's countries should not be threatened; they should not interfere in one another's internal affairs and no aggression should take place in any form.

The Persian Gulf region is rich in natural God-given resources and the region's countries should partake of these God-given bounties. Therefore, the best course would be to develop this region. Those countries wishing to dominate the region exploit tension and conflicts. Our policy is wholly based on cooperation and mutual respect among the countries of the region, free from any aggression or aggressive conduct with regard for one another's territorial integrity. We suggested earlier that this cooperation take the form of a session of the GCC with Iran, but at that time some forces dominating the area hindered such a session. It could also be in another form that which we should prepare and formulate.

[Correspondent] Have there been any developments in ties between Iran and countries of the region with which relations have been strained in the past 2 years, such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia?

[Larijani] We have very cordial ties with most of the regional states, as we had in the past. Our ties with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were strained for certain specific reasons, certain common ones. Ties with Kuwait are in the process of improving. Some steps have been taken in this regard which seem hopeful and will benefit our respective countries. As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, it depends on the commitments of the government of Saudi Arabia and it is too early to present a detailed picture in this regard.

[Correspondent] You mentioned that in our foreign policy we follow a set of principles. In view of the varied versions of these principles which seem to appear in the implementation of our foreign policy, what guarantee is there that those who implement the Islamic Republic's foreign policy will adhere to these principles correctly?

[Larijani] There are two aspects to be considered here. Who is to provide an accurate interpretation of these principles? Is it purely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for the planning, formulation, and implementation of foreign relations? Or is it that the Foreign Ministry draws up plans and makes proposals and these principles are endorsed through a specific mechanism in the Islamic Republic and then implemented?

The fact is that the problems that face us regarding foreign relations are of varying importance. Some of these problems fall within the category of those duties which we routinely plan and implement ourselves. If an issue becomes a sensitive one, the topmost officials of the country, the leaders and the chiefs of the Armed Forces, as well as the prime minister, give their opinions. For even more sensitive issues his eminence the imam gives his opinion. Therefore, all the issues vary according to their level of importance and the modus operandi is also variable. Thus, the Foreign Ministry is the formulator of foreign policy and is also its sole executive, but there is a special way of obtaining approval for various opinions. This means that we do not always go ahead and approve and finally decide matters all by ourselves.

[Correspondent] In that case, how are differences of opinion on foreign policy resolved among officials and authorities?

[Larijani] It is natural that in sensitive matters of foreign policy there should be differences of opinion, but the procedure that we follow ensures that, despite mutual differences, a consensus is finally reached which is adhered to by all.

[Correspondent] As regards the subject of improvement of ties with the West, I would now like to discuss the question of ties with Great Britain. In view of the British colonial past in Iran, the sensitivity that exists in public opinion and the media in this regard, and the general role of Great Britain as compared with other Western countries as regards assistance to Iraq in the war, what form will these relations take? Is there any chance that relations will be fully resumed in the future?

[Larijani] The fact that people and some individuals are sensitive on the issue of ties with Great Britain indicates the people's feelings toward their country's independence. It shows that they do not want any form of foreign domination by any country to be reimposed on them, and this is not confined to Great Britain.

This very sensitivity ensures the safety of the country. Another point is that we do not advocate making enemies in the world. If a country comes and says we wish to be friends with you, we should be intelligent enough to gauge the motives behind this offer of friendship and to prevent their gaining access to any illicit interests. It is rather simpleminded and foolish on our part if a country extends a hand of friendship toward us and respects us and declares that it is ready to compensate for its erroneous past policies, and we reject its overtures. We should at least give it the opportunity to correct its past errors, and we should encourage it. But we are not foolish. Our ties with Great Britain are based on this premise.

In the past the British Government did not view the Islamic Revolution favorably, but some time ago they expressed the inclination to review their opinion of our revolution, country, and government and to adopt a better position, and they took steps in this regard. We also reciprocated with some positive steps. If this trend continues and the British Government proceeds even further on the basis of mutual respect, joint interests, and nonintervention in one another's affairs, it is obvious that our future relations will be more positive. There is also a possibility of complete restoration of diplomatic ties. Talks are in progress between the two countries, and positive steps taken a year ago continue even now.

[Correspondent] There are copious rumors of contacts with the United States through various channels. Are these rumors true?

[Larijani] As I just mentioned, we should and are forced to follow principles, and rumors or a specially created climate cannot make us deviate from our path. The U.S. policy toward our revolution and the Islamic Republic is based on a foundation which is extremely hostile, inflammatory, and interfering. Since the revolution, the United States has continued this policy; it is only natural that we should resist such a policy. In fact, why should there be talks and ties? If ties are for the purpose of reinforcing that policy through direct communication, then talks are of no use either. We do not wish to say that we are afraid of holding talks with anyone in the world.

This would be incorrect; we are not afraid of talking to any country in the world, as talks with anyone are not forbidden or frowned upon in Islam. In Islamic history the prophet of Islam, peace be upon him, even conferred with the Jews who were the source of discord and subversion in Al-Madinah and signed treaties with them to the benefit of Islam. We also see that the Prophet 'Ali, peace be upon him, and Mu'awiyah [founder of the Umayyid dynasty] exchanged letters. We do not consider ourselves to be more revolutionary than Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, who invited the ringleaders of his enemies to hold talks.

Therefore, when we mention ties or talks with the United States, some irresponsible individuals make the mistake of misinterpreting the inappropriateness of the subject and diverting the subject to another form. The real issue is the U.S. policy toward the revolution and the Islamic Republic, not the format of the talks or what kind of channels are open and other similar topics. This is a

blatant mistake and is designed to divert attention from actual U.S. policy to secondary matters. Our people and those who are interested in foreign policy should note this.

Therefore, there will be no mysterious or covert ties with the United States so long as it continues to follow its policy of hostility, sabotage, and intervention, and we will oppose not only the United States but all countries that have such a policy. If the United States renounces this policy and like other countries respects our revolution, refrains from interfering in our affairs, cooperates with us on the basis of reciprocal interests, and restores our rights that it has jeopardized and compensates for them, obviously our ties with the United States will be on the same principles as with other countries. This means that we will not make special allowances for the United States. Why should the United States have any special importance for us?

We lived without the United States for 10 years and we can do so for another 100! It bothers me that people misinterpret the situation and ignore the problems of ties with the United States, and then advocate a policy which in practice would increase our dependence on the United States when they should be advocating a policy that would reduce our dependence on the United States! Those who say that we have been in touch with the United States through certain channels or means are misrepresenting the situation to a certain extent. We are a government and we have an office in Washington to safeguard our interests, but it is in the Algerian Embassy, and the United States has a similar office in Iran in the Swiss Embassy.

For example, when the United States shot down our airliner we sent a strongly worded protest to the United States through our office in Washington. In other cases, whenever the occasion arose, we have sent protests, threats, and reprimands, and the United States has also sent some messag. s to us through their office here. This is a simple diplomatic channel between the two countries. At present, we are involved in a suit against the United States in the International Court of Justice in The Hague. They have infringed on our rights and they have certain demands against us requiring contacts and consultation. Now if someone were to say that we are involved in talks with the United States at The Hague, he would be incorrect. Those who make such insinuations really wish to imply that we have surrendered to the United States, and this is not true. As long as our system is based on the rule of the jurisconsult and is an Islamic one, we cannot succumb to apostasy, whether it is the United States or another country.

It is being said that there are many channels to and links with the United States. Obviously, there are. When a diplomat comes to Iran from another country and speaks to the officials of our country, occasionally the United States sends a message through them. For example, when Turkish Prime Minister Ozal comes to Iran and meets Prime Minister Musavi and conveys a message from the United States, obviously that message is answered. Why should we be terrified if someone comes from the United States and brings a message?

[Correspondent] Is there at present a diplomat in Iran representing the United States?

[Larijani] At present there is no diplomat representing the United States in Tehran. There is not even an American at the U.S. interests office.

[Correspondent] In your remarks you have not ruled out the possibility of talks with the United States, and you have not confirmed them either. Could you tell us clearly whether such talks are being held? If they are, at what stage are they?

[Larijani] I denied them clearly. I think it is important that we not neglect the prime task of battling the infidels and that we concentrate on formalities instead. When we mention talks or ties with the United States, our anxiety is not regarding the talks but U.S. foreign policy, which is the hindrance and which should change.

[Correspondent] Has the United States agreed to pay compensation for downing the airliner?

[Larijani] The United States is responsible for this crime and should take complete responsibility for the consequences. If it does not, it is utterly reprehensible. We hope that international legal organizations will take the necesary steps and follow up on the U.S. responsibility for this disaster within the framework of international laws.

[Correspondent] Does Iran have any particular opinions on the approaching presidential election in the United States? Is it likely that this election will have any effect on relations between the two countries?

[Larijani] The U.S. presidential election does not concern us. It is an internal matter. It is American policy to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Our policy is not the same as that of the United States. Whether the results of the elections have any effect or not depends on the government that comes into power and its policy toward us. If it is the same old policy of hostility, then naturally there will be no change. If the new government desires a change of policy then relations between the two countries would definitely change.

[Correspondent] Are there any official or unofficial channels of contact with the United States through the Foreign Ministry at present?

[Larijani] Unofficial contacts are not something within our control. Anyone who crosses the border with a normal passport can go abroad, contact someone, and say what he likes. We have no control over this. However, on the political or official level we do not consider such talks beneficial.

[Correspondent] How do you view the trend of Iraqi foreign policy in light of the recent tension between Iraq and the United States?

[Larijani] Iraq's foreign policy has so far been based on aggression. This aggressiveness and belligerence were present even before the revolution, and we will see what happens in the future. The Iraqi regime is constantly awaiting an opportunity to create trouble and problems for its neighbors and to violate their territorial integrity, and obviously this policy creates tension in the entire region. The Iraqi regime does not display any respect for international laws. The massacre of Kurds with chemical weapons is not a new phenomenon. It is just that it has recently become known to the world. We have been saying this for years, but now it has become clear that Iraq has no qualms where its own people are concerned.

If the use of chemical weapons becomes prevalent and every regime uses them to eliminate its own people, this will open a new chapter in the history of mankind. Those who embark on such terrorism in their own countries will not hesitate to use chemical weapons abroad. We feel that the world is not paying enough attention to the Iraqi atrocities and should approach the problem more seriously. The Iraqi regime has initiated a new trend and the adverse effects of this will spread to all.

Bill To Merge IRGC, Defense Ministries Tabled

LD2509122988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] During today's Majlis open session, the general terms of the bill for the establishement of the supply of roads construction and maintenence machinery private joint stock company were ratified after its first reading. Following approval at the request of a number of deputies to table the bill for the merger of the IRGC and Defense Ministries, which had been presented to the Majlis previously, the review of the bill was deferred for 6 months.

IRGC Mobilization Unit Offers Training

LD2509212088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Since the organization of the IRGC Mobilization Unit of the Deprived, more than 5 million [figure as heard] people have received training at the IRGC's regions and bases. Today, which is Training and Organization Day within the context of Holy Defense Week, Mr Rahmani, supervisor of training and organization for the mobilization forces, said: From 1985 to 1988, more than 1,417,800 [figure as heard] fighters departed for the fronts after receiving the necessary training. He added: Various kinds of training has been given to volunteers by the IRGC Mobilization Unit of the Deprived so that they may confront any kind of aggression or conspiracy by the enemy, including training in such areas as relief operations; jungle, mountain, and amphibious warfare; civilian and antichemical weapons defense; and defense training programmed for students.

Defense Cells Organized in Northwestern Province

LD2509144088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] On the 4th day of Holy Defense Week a new term began for the completion of the organization of more than 3,000 defense cells and groups throughout Azarbayjan Bakhtari Province. According to IRNA, with the implementation of this project, almost 60,000 members of the popular armed forces will be organized throughout the province of Azarbayjan Bakhtari.

Hamadan Province Volunteers Depart for Borders

LD2509202288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Continuing the departure of popular volunteer forces for the country's borders to join the fighters of Islam, a large group of the mobilization forces from Hamadan Province and Minab town left today for the southern and western borders of our Islamic homeland.

Mazandaran Participation in Mobilization Noted

LD2609123688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Thanks to the extensive response of the people of Mazadaran to the mobilization of 20-million strong army project, some 30,000 brothers and 40,000 sisters from Mazandaran have participated in the military training conducted by the mobilization forces of the IRGC. The 14th Karbala' Corps commander, in an interview with the Central News Unit on the occasion of training and organizing day, said that thanks to the response of the ever-present citizens of Mazandaran, the people in the province have been able to organize 153 urban and rural districts, and districts involving men, women, civil servants, workers, and pupils. As part of the resistance ranks, the Mazandaran fighters have been deeply involved in supporting the front, so much so that since 1365 [year ending 20 March 1987] more than 199,000 mobilizaton forces have gone to the front in some 40 convoys.

Editorial Warns Against Haste in Reconstruction

NC2509113588 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Sep 88 pp 1, 12

[Editorial by Ahmad Tavakkoli: "Points Worth Noting in Reconstruction"]

[Excerpts] The first topic drawing the attention of officials and the nation following the acceptance of a ceasefire was that of reconstruction. Its importance is such

that it has generated a great deal of activity in other countries which are vying for ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran for various reasons. [passage omitted]

What our war-stricken population and industrial and production centers need most are reconstruction and repair to the damage wrought by war and the enemy's treacherous attacks. Incidentally, the imam stressed the same idea in his 30 August address in which he asked the people not to be hasty and to leave the formulation of priorities to the Committee for the Discernment of What Is Best, which is made up of the heads of the three branches of government and the prime minister. Thus, discussion of reconstruction of residential areas, cities, and industries is necessary, and in this regard it must be borne in mind that haste must be accompanied by attention to detail. This gives rise to the discussion of capital, foreign exchange, and the means of procuring it. Because the internal foreign exchange situation is not very favorable at the moment, a discussion of foreign loans and credit enters the picture here.

This very subject is arousing the avarice of foreigners and various multinational companies, because an unhealthy economic trend and social weaknesses pave the way for a greater need for these international, greed-ridden elements, who care nothing about reconstruction or construction. [passage omitted]

An important point regarding reconstruction and one that can be considered the last word is that however earnest we may be in our efforts for peace, which would be useful on an international level, we cannot ignore the fact that we must understand we are still in a state of war with the enemy, and the warships of its supporters are still stationed in the region. Second, we must be extremely careful in any planning which entails foreign loans or credit, and we should review these carefully and prudently. Any decision made under pressure of circumstances would endanger our political independence, and acceptance of economic agreements could even have a negative impact on the peace accord. The standard approach by officials does not resolve any problems in this regard. In fact, it narrows the field of activity. However, there is no doubt we should beware of foreign companies, as they call to mind a Marshall Plan or a MacArthur plan when postwar reconstruction is mentioned.

In view of the fact that the government has made purchases worth billions of dollars in the past few years without the permission of the Majlis, which were in essence a foreign loans with even worse terms and conditions than before in some cases, and with the government's efforts in the past few years to resume work at the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex with credit from Mitsubishi Japan, what is the point of saying we are compietely opposed to every kind of loan and foreign credit? [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on War Damage Assessments
LD2509011788 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—The following is the continuation of yesterday's reports on Iraqi war losses inflicted on Iranian cities and towns.

Malek Shahi: Iraq's bombings of Malekshahi district on the outskirts of Mehran town (Ilam Province) since the start of its aggression in 1989 have caused a loss of rials 390 mnillion (dlrs 5.4 million), revealed Mayor 'Abdolreza Harbizadeh. He said that 820 residential units, 180 shops and 20 educational and cultural centers in the said district were bombed by Iraqi warplanes over the aforesaid period. A total of 1,250 heads of livestock worth rials 40 m. (dlrs 563,000) were killed and an estimated loss of rials 70 m. (dlrs 986,000) was inflicted on farm lands and orchards in the region in the enemy air attacks, Harbizadeh said. During an Iraqi air raid on Mehr village, he said, a large house was destroyed, killing all 85 domestic animals inside [as received] causing a 2.5-million-rial (dlrs 35,200) loss.

Eivan-e Gharb [placename as received]: Mayor Mehdi Roshani disclosed that 308 houses and educational, economic and cultural centers were destroyed in Iraqi air attacks last year. Enemy air attacks inflicted an estimated damage of rials 1.025 billion (dlrs 14.4 m.), he added. Roshani said that five educational centers worth rials 11.25 m. (dlrs 158,000) and a public library valued at rials 600,000 (dlrs 8,450) in Eivan-e Gharb District were bombed and destroyed by Iraqi warplanes. Besides, a total of 250 housing units worth rials 1 billion (dlrs 14.084 m.), 51 business centers worth rials 10.2 m (dlrs 144,000) and an economic center worth rials 3 m. (dlrs 42,000) in eivan-e Gharb were demolished in the enemy air attacks, he said. Elsewhere in the same district, the mayor said 230,000 hectares of farm lands were set on fire by Iraqi bombing last year, causing substantial losses. The extent of damage has yet to be calculated by experts, he said.

Dehloran: The town of Dehloran in Ilam Province was occupied three times by Iraqi troops during their almost eight-year-old war against Iran, causing a damage estimated at over rials 200 billion (dlrs 2.817 b.), Dehloran Mayor Sadeq Mohammadi disclosed. Mohammadi said that 10 educational centers valued at rial 1 b. (dlrs 14,084 m.), some mosques and five cultural centers including libraries, cinemas and tourist resorts with a combined value of rials 150 (dlrs 2.1 m.) were destroyed during the enemy occupation of the town. The extent of damage inflicted on 1,000 economic centers and shops and on 5,000 residential units during the enemy invasion of Dehloran have been estimated at rials 10 b. (dlrs 140.9 m.) and rials 140 b. (dlrs 1.971 b.) respectively, he said. The Dehloran mayor added that 15 industrial and economic centers including a power station valued at rials 5 b. (dlrs 70.5 m.) and the town's waterworks including 10

deep wells with relevant equipment, five water reservoirs and 20 kms of 12-inch water pipes worth rials 2 b. (dlrs 28.1 m.) were also destroyed by Iraqi occupiers.

An estimated loss of rials 20.5 b. (dlrs 288.8) was inflicted on Dehloran's urban installations and streets, he said. The mayor said that at least 1,000 public and private vehicles of various types worth rials 6.75 b. (dlrs 95.1 m.) were destroyed in the frequent Iraqi air and artillery attacks on Dehloran. During the nearly 8-year-old Iraqi-imposed war, he said, Iraqi troops destroyed 50 deep wells each with one to four pumping engines inflicting an estimated damage of rials 7 b. (dlrs 98.6 m.). Over the afore-said period, the mayor said, 50 villages, each accomodating 50 to 150 families were annihilated by enemy occupation forces as a result of which a 50-billion rial (dlrs 704 m.) damage was inflicted, he said.

The three-time occupation of Dehloran by Iraqi forces also resulted in the destruction of 75 oil wells, two oil fields (Abu Gharib and Bayat) with 2,000 kms of oil pipelines and scores of pumping stations and other oil installations in and around the town, Mohammadi said. Fifty bridges valued at rials 5 b. (dlrs 70.5 m.) were also destroyed by Ba'thist troops, said Mohammadi, adding that 5,000 residents of Dehloran were captured and taken to Iraq by enemy troops since the beginning of the imposed-war.

Abdanan: In Abdanan District damage estimated at some 1.35 billion rials (17.6 million dollars) was inflicted during the eight times Iraqi warplanes bombarded the area over the past years, said District Governor Mosaddeq Taheri. During the enemy air raids, he added, 1,500 residential units valued at 950 million rials, 50 shops at 200 million rials and five educational centers at 100 million rials were damaged.

Darreh-ye Shahr: Iraqi air attacks on Darreh-ye Shahr in western Iran since the start of the war have caused rials 300 million (dlrs 4.22 million) in damage, the town's mayor, 'Abdol Hoseyn Sareminia said. Sareminia said that 30 residential areas, a 12-class school and six pieces of heavy machinery with a combined value of rials 300 million (dlrs 4.22 m.) were destroyed or badly damaged in Iraqi air raids. He said that five houses valued at rials 10 million (dlrs 140,000) were previously destroyed in an Iraqi air raid on Armavaz [placename as received] village on the outskirts of Darreh-ye Shahr north of Dehloran.

Ilam: The provincial capital of Ilam itself was bombed as many as 107 times since 1980 by Iraqi warplanes, causing an estimated damage of rials 55.111 (dlrs 776.2 million), said Ilam Mayor Reza Abdollahi. Abdollahi said the wanton enemy attacks destroyed a historical monument whose material loss alone not to speak about its cultural importance was around rials 11 m. (dlrs 155,000). Other bombed areas included 25 educational centers valued at rials 498 m. (dlrs 7 m.), a cinema worth rials 20 m. (dlrs 282,000) and 4 industrial units with a combined value of rials 4 m. (dlrs 56,300). Damage to some 10,471 housing units in the city has been put at rials 51.155 b. (dlrs 720.4 m.) while 1,882 trade centers valued at rials 1.8 b. (dlrs 26.5 m.) were wiped out during the Iraqi bombings, he said. The Ilam mayor added that the extent of damage inflicted on the town's urban installations and on public and private vehicles has been estimated at rials 290 m. (dlrs 4 m.) and rials 40 m. (dlrs 563,000) respectively.

Chowar [placename as received]: Iraqi warplanes bombed Chowar District (Ilam Prov.) 3 times during 1365 (1986-87) causing a loss of about 265 million rls. (3,785,714 dlrs.), announced Chowar's Mayor Ezzeddin Soleymani. Damaged in Iraqi air raids were some 200 housing units worth 20 m. rls., three educational units worth at 10 m. rls., two health units worth at 5 m. rls, a cattle-breeding farm worth at 10 m. rls, as well as governmental builings worth around 100 m. rls., he added. Soleymani further said five commercial units worth at least 10 m. rls. and a sports hall worth at 10 m. rls. have been damaged in the Iraqi raids. The damage to civil installations is estimated at 100 m. rls, he noted. Soleymani also said Iraqi attacks on three other villages, of the said district, caused a further loss of 122 million rls. (1,742.857 dlrs.). Some 30 housing units worth at 60 m. rls., 1,400 heads of cattles worth at 42 m. rls. and 10 bridges worth at 20 m. rls. were damaged in the bombings of the villages, he concluded.

Mehran: Mehran Mayor 'Ali Akbar Sa'idi said the occupation of the western Iranian town by Iraqi troops in the early days of the Baghdad regime's aggression alone caused an estimated loss of rials 45.370 billion (dlrs 639 million). Sa'idi said that the extent of damage inflicted on surrounding farm lands and industrial centers and on historical monuments and trade centers in and around Mehran, by Iraqi occupiers has been estimated at another 23 b. rials (dlrs 323.8 m.). Besides the above figures, he said thirty schools worth rials 1 b. (dlrs 14.08 m.), 10 light and heavy plants valued at rials 100 m. (dlrs 1.4 m.) and 16 mosques with a combined value of rials 270 m. (dlrs 3.8 m.) were also destroyed in the Iraqi occupation of Mehran, he said. The Mehran mayor said in addition the Iraqi occupiers demolished 3,200 residential units in the town worth rials 16 b. (dlrs 225.3 m.) inflicting an estimated damage of rials 5 b. (dlrs 70.4 m.) on the town's government offices.

Once a sprawling town of 20,000 people, Mehran is located 20 kms from the provincial capital of Ilam and stands opposite the eastern Iraqi town of Badrah. The mayor recounting the human losses of the town said 30 citizens were martyred and 200 others wounded while another 700 were captured by the invading Iraqi troops against all international regulations. Mehran changed hands between the Iraqi occupiers and Iranian Muslim combatants six times since the start of the Baghdad regime's aggression on Iran.

Musian: The Iraqi occupation and destruction of Musian township has resulted in some rls. 26 billion (dlrs. 366 millions) of damage to industrial, commercial, and residential units there. Mayor of Musian Amir Abiyabi said

that 10 educational centres estimated at about rls. 200 millions (dlrs. 2.8 millions) and five cultural units estimated at the same value sustained considerable damage. One thousand residential units valued at over rls. 20 billions (dlrs. 282 millions) and 100 economic and commercial units worth about rls. 2.4 billions (dlrs. 34 millions) were damaged, said the mayor. The damage inflicted upon five industrial units of the town was estimated by the mayor at over rls. 50 million (over dlrs. 700 thousands). Destruction of three wells, two reservoirs, water pipelines and the 10-kilometer long main water pipeline connecting the town to the reservoirs are part of the damages inflicted upon the town's waterworks, estimated at over rls. 1.2 billions (dlrs. 17 millions), said the official.

Among other devastated parts of Musian are three parks, and infrastructural and communication installations estimated at rls. 500 millions (dlrs. seven millions), said the mayor adding that also 500 private and government vehicles have been damaged as a result of the enemy's aggression.

Further Details on Damage

LD2509204688 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept 25, IRNA—The following is the continuation of IRNA reports on the losses inflicted on Iranian cities and towns by the Iraqi regime during the 8-year war.

Baneh: The town of Baneh was attacked 96 times by Iraqi warplanes from 5 June 1984 to 19 November 1987, but the June 5 raid was the most barbaric, Mayor 'Alireza Kermani-Zadeh said. On that day he said, eight Iraqi warplanes taking off from Kirkuk air base swooped over the town savagely bombing the massive demonstration of the unsuspecting townspeople from a low altitude. It was 15th Khordad and the people were commemorating the 1963 exile of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni. Besides the air raids, Baneh was shelled 34 times by the Iraqi regime suffering 70 percent damage. 3,500 houses, 550 shops, 48 mosques, 105 administrative, educational and medical centers sustained various degrees of damage ranging from 10 to 100 percent, said the mayor. He said 592 vehicles were also destroyed in addition to heavy damage which was inflicted on infra-structural installations of the town. Kermani-Zadeh estimated the losses inflicted on the town at 11,569,000,000 rials ($165 million).

Sanandaj: Sanandaj, the capital of Kordestan Province was attacked 6 times by Iraqi warplanes, said Mayor Mojtaba Hashemi. He said a total of 1,400 people were martyred or wounded. He said the enemy air raids destroyed 200 houses, 15 shops, two educational centers and inflicted damage ranging from 20 to 100 percent on 1,300 other housing units, 60 shops and 22 schools. The resulting shockwaves of Iraqi bombardments indirectly damaged 238 more housing units shattering equipment in houses and shops. He put the losses inflicted on the city at 5,676,545,000 rials ($81.1 million). Meanwhile, 77 people were martyred and wounded and 734 houses and 39 shops were either destroyed or damaged in the town of Qorveh, Kordestan Province, as a result of Iraqi bombardments during the almost eight year war. Qorveh Mayor Mohammad Sadeq Nazari jeered at the dastard enemy for dropping bombs over a town which has no garrison or military center, except peaceful country people. Nazari estimated the losses at 941 million rials ($42 million).

Saqqez: The town of Saqqez, 200 kms. northwest of Sanandaj was also bombed five times by Iraqi warplanes during the war in which 40 people were martyred. Mayor Ahmad Moddares said 2,362 houses, 790 shops, and 275 educational and medical centers were destroyed and damaged in the attacks causing losses of up to 14,512,000,000 rials ($207,300,000).

Tuysarkan: In Tuysarkan town, during 1986-87, some 370 civilians were martyred and wounded and 572 houses, shops, educational centers and government offices sustained losses in Iraqi air attacks, said Mayor Assadollah Bayat. Iraqi air attacks on Tuysarkan's residential areas which also resulted in destruction of six educational centers including a special school for talented children caused an estimated loss of rials 303.25 million ($4.28 million), he said. Bayat said that "Sheykh 'Ali Khani" theological school whose historical monument dates back to Safavid [16th century Iranian dynasty] times was bombed and damaged by Iraqi warplanes.

Nahavand: In the historical town of Nahavand (in Hamadan Prov.), at least 1,669 citizens mostly women, children and old people were martyred and wounded during the five rounds of Iraq's so-called war of cities, said Mayor Mohammad Reza Hasani-Tabataba'i. Nahavand was bombed and hit by surface-to-surface missiles 20 times since the start of the Baghdad regime's aggression on Iran in September 1980. Some 2,540 houses, trade centers and government offices, 23 educational centers and two historical monuments were destroyed or heavily damaged in the Iraqi air and missile attacks on the town, he said. Hasani Tabataba'i said the extent of damage inflicted on the town was estimated at rials 1.334 billion ($18.79 million), addidng that a special school for talented children was totally destroyed in enemy air and missile attacks. Bahram-Nezhad [not further identified] said a medical unit, two educational units and a sports hall were also destroyed in the savage Iraqi attack.

Paveh: In Paveh town over 255 housing, trade, educational, religious and cultural units were destroyed or heavily damaged during Iraqi attacks on the city's civilian area. Mayor Naser 'Ebadi said over 770 million rials (about $11 million) losses were inflicted on the town. Many civilians including innocent children, women and

elderly men were martyred and injured in Iraqi bombings, said 'Ebadi adding over 40 civilians alone were martyred during the last round of Iraqi bombing on the northwestern town. The mayor gave the breakup of damage as over 350 million rials on housing units, more than 200 million rials on public utilities, about 100 million rials on the main market, over 100 million rials on educational centers and nearly 20 million rials on mosques.

Sar-e Pol-e Zahab: Iraqi air and artillery attacks destroyed over 4,000 houses and shops in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab border town, the scene of some bitter battles during the imposed war, Mayor 'Ali Shir-Hashemi said. The 19 sq. kms, town is located east of Qasr-e Shirin and had a population of 26,000 at the outset of the war. It was occupied by the Iraqi forces on 24 September, 1980, but several hours after occupation the vigilant residents of the town giving more than 50 martyrs, forced the intruding forces to retreat. In 1983 the water and power installations of the town which were destroyed by the enemy were reconstructed, but were destroyed again by Iraqi attacks, said the mayor. He said three days after Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 (18 July) the town was occupied by the Iraqi troops for the second time. Iran's victorious operations code-named Mersad (ambuscade) liberated the town days later, Shir-Hashemi said. The losses inflicted on the town was estimated by the mayor at 16.8 billion rials ($239 million).

Marivan: The northwestern town of Marivan, 20 kms. from Iraq's border line, was subjected to more than 170 Iraqi air raids and was under constant artillery shellings over the past eight years, Mayor Ahmad Mahmud-Nejad said. He said the Iraqi regime in addition to its raids of the town, fired a total of 578 artillery shells at Marivan till 29 March 1988, martyring 375 residents of the town and wounding 1,900 others. A total of 6,000 houses, 800 shops, 33 mosques, 58 government offices and 86 medical centers were also destroyed or damaged, Mahmud-Nejad said. He put the losses inflicted on the town at 25,137,000,000 rials ($359 million). He said Iraqi air raids on the town destroyed 480 vehicles and inflicted considerable damage on urban installations and streets.

Mehran: Mehran, 100 kms southwest of Ilam in Western Iran was the first town captured by Ba'thist troops in the very beginning of the Iraqi-imposed war in September 1980. The occupation of strategic Mehran by Iraqi troops resulted in the town's total devastation and homelessness of 20,000 local people. Unsuspecting Mehran became one of the first victims of the Baghdad regime's full-scale aggression on Iran. On September 22, 1980, Iraqi troops poured into the town, killing and wounding 250 civilians and capturing 7,000 others despite the heroic resistance put up hastily by peaceful townspeople and local tribesmen. The Iraqi Ba'thists destroyed 3,200 houses and 16 mosques during their first occupation of Mehran. Three years later in 1983, Mehran was liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants during the Val-Fajr-3 operations. On May 2, 1986, Iraqi troops once again occupied Mehran but were forced to flee the town and its nearby areas suffering substantial casualties and losses during the successful Karbala'-10 operations, launched by the Muslim combatants in June 1986.

Mehran was invaded for the third time in the course of the imposed war on June 17, 1988 when the terrorist mercenaries of the Monafeqin-e (hypocrites) Khalq Organization (MKO) backed by Iraqi warplanes and artillery fire attacked the town. Three days later, the town was purged of all MKO terrorists by Iran's valiant combatants and tribesmen.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Target of Letter Scheme

TA2209200388 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that a number of European embassies in Tehran this week received an open letter in which Hashemi-Rafsanjani was accused of taking bribes, being morally corrupt, and maintaining secret ties with Israeli and U.S. agents. Informed circles in Tehran are saying that this letter was written at the instigation of Musavi Kho'iniha and Mohsen Reza'i. Some Majlis deputies have also received this letter in addition to the embassies. Musavi Kho'iniha and Mohsen Reza'i, along with 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, are considered part of the regime's radical faction and are staunch opponents of Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Maldives

President Gayoom Reelected to Third Term

BK2609034088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0326 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Male, Sept 26 (AFP)—Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom won a third five-year term in office after polling an unprecedented 96.37 percent of the votes at Friday's [23 September] election, it was announced here Monday.

Mr. Gayoom, 51, president since 1978, was the sole candidate selected by the Citizens' Majlis, the country's parliament, for Friday's election conducted through a national referendum.

An election official said the incumbent president received 69,373 "yes" votes while 2,537 voted against him. Some 72,339 out of the 87,123 electorate turned out to vote.

Mr. Gayoom will be sworn in for the new term on November 11 at a colourful ceremony involving the national security service and school children, the official said. [passage omitted]

Bhutan

Gandhi Arrives 23 Sep; Holds Talks With King

BK2309162288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan held official discussions at the royal guest house in Bumthang today. According to an official spokesman the discussions were friendly and cordial in keeping with India-Bhutan relations.

Earlier, Mr Rajiv Gandhi was given a warm and traditional welcome on arrival in (Jakar), the district headquarters of Bumthang in central Bhutan, this morning on a 3-day visit to the country. He was received by the king and senior officials of the Bhutan Government. The people lined the streets and greeted Mr Gandhi as he drove in a motorcade from the helipad to the royal guest house.

At the Delhi airport Mr Gandhi was seen off by his cabinet colleagues and others. He told newsmen that the visit is an exercise to strengthen the existing good relations between the two countries. He said his impending visit to China will figure in the talks with the Bhutan king.

Pakistan

No Defense Budget Cut If Junejo Wins Election

BK2709085588 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Sep 88 p 1

[Excerpt] September 15: Pakistan Muslim League [PML] (J) [Junejo Faction] President Mohammad Khan Junejo said on Thursday his party would not curtail the defence budget if voted to power in the Nov 16 elections. He told a news conference in the federal capital, where he released the party's election manifesto, that the strengthening of national defence was imperative for the preservation of sovereign independence and territorial integrity, and added that capability must be commensurate with the requirements imposed by the international and regional security environment. Mr Junejo observed that Pakistan was situated in a strategically sensitive area, hence its Armed Forces should be well-equipped and strengthened. Acquisition of technology and development of indigenous capacity for defence production would be given high priority, he added.

Answering a question, Mr Junejo agreed that there was a lobby in the former government which wanted to cut defence expenditure. But, he said he never compromised over this issue as he considered the defence of the country the topmost priority of his government. Asked, if voted to power, if his government would construct the Kalabagh Dam, Mr Junejo said that he has appointed a commission to see the economic and political viability of this project and would decide on it once its report was submitted. Asked about his party's approach towards the land reforms, he said PML had no intention to introduce any new land reforms. However, he hastened to add that implementation of the last land reforms would be ensured.

Mr Junejo also hinted that the present Constitution would be revised by his party. Elaborating, he said: "We accepted the constitution in its present shape because of the peculiar circumstances." But later, he recalled, his government had set up a commission to revise the constitution and suggest appropriate amendments to it. Asked about the reasons for the dismissal of his government by the late President, Mr Junejo said "that was an act of an individual and no one was consulted on this issue." Questioned whether he would impose tax on agriculture, Mr Junejo maintained that this issue was also under the consideration of a commission. He said the PML would like to take into consideration all merits and demerits before deciding this issue.

He admitted that his government did not have any major success in eradicating corruption from the society. When pointed out that no action was taken during his regime against those people involved in scandals like Faisalabad land case, Mr Junejo said that the Federal Anti-Corruption Committee, appointed by him, had not recommended any action against anyone in that case. However, he recalled that he sacked two of his cabinet ministers who were found violating the rules. Referring to his election manifesto, the PML President said: "We have added some new targets in the 5-point socio-economic programme launched by me during my premiership and made some more positive commitments with the people."

On foreign policy, he said, Muslim League will strive for the faithful implementation of the Geneva Accords so that Soviet troops withdraw from the whole of Afghanistan within the time-frame agreed upon at Geneva and conditions are created for the safe return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan in dignity and honour. Moreover, he said his party would like to see Afghanistan emerge as an independent non-aligned Muslim country, where a government of the choice of the Afghan people, without any outside interference, is established. The Muslim League, he added, abhors any concept of hegemony and subcribes to the regional approach to nuclear non-proliferation. An independent and non-aligned foreign policy would be adopted by his party and it would continue to support Islamic countries. He assured that the democratic process would be strengthened and rule of law would be established.

In the energy sector, he said, efforts will be made to resolve the load-shedding programme [temporary cut in power supply due to shortage], within four years by inviting the private sector to invest in power generation and distribution and gas exploration. Similarly, he said that his party believed that Pakistan had a sovereign right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and no efforts would be spared to set up several installations

for the production of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. To improve the system of justice and administration, he said, his party would introduce the jury system, enforce the system of Qazi [Islamic] courts and enhance the power of the judiciary. [passage omitted]

High Court Declares Sacking of Junejo Illegal

BK2709101088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 27 (AFP)—The Lahore High Court on Tuesday declared illegal the dissolution of Parliament and sacking of former-Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo by the late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. General Ziaul Haq's decision, announced May 29, was challenged by several former MPs [Members of Parliament] in the Lahore High Court earlier this month. Lahore is in northeast Pakistan. The court in an unexpected verdict Tuesday on three identical petitions challenging the validity of the presidential order, declared the move was "illegal and unconstitutional," court sources said. But the High Court ordered that elections be held on November 16 as planned by the late president.

AFP: Afghan Jets Bomb Villages, Kill 6

BK2609122888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Islamabad, Sep 26 (AFP)-At least six people were killed and 11 wounded when six Afghan jets violated Pakistani air space Monday and bombed three villages near northern Parachinar town, official sources said. The sources said the group of war planes flew deep into Pakistani territory around 10:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) and dropped several bombs on Tulat Khel, Tajik and Shakh villages located eight kms (five miles) from Parachinar. Besides killing six people, the bombs also destroyed several houses, the sources added. Those killed included four children and a woman. It was not immediately clear if Afghan refugees were among the casualtics.

Monday's air strikes were the second in a week and the fifth reported officially since September 1. The Afghan incursions increased with a stepped-up campaign by Kabul against alleged Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords signed by the two countries on April 14 to end the nine-year old Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan. The sources said the Afghan jets came from the eastern Nangarhar Province where rebels last week blew up an Afghan army base in Samarkhel, causing heavy casualties. Monday's bombings followed similar attacks Friday in which five people, all Pakistani nationals, were killed. Pakistan lodged a strong protest with the Kabul authorities and also complained to the United Nations.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said here Saturday that Pakistani fighter aircraft have shot down three intruding Afghan planes since last month and similar action would also be taken in the future. The state-run Radio Kabul routinely rejects the Pakistani charges as baseless.

Protest Lodged With Afghanistan

BK2609154388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Four aircraft of the Kabul regime in one more serious and flagrant violation of the Geneva accords violated Pakistan's airspace this morning. These aircraft penetrated up to 40 miles into Pakistan's territory and dropped four bombs on village (Karlachchi) near Parachinar. Six innocent people, including a woman and five children, were killed in this barbarous attack. Ten others were injured and two houses were destroyed. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families. A complaint against this violation has been made with the UN Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan. A team of the mission has been asked to visit the area to investigate this barbarous attack by Kabul regime.

The charge d'affaires of Kabul regime was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad and a protest note was handed to him which said that the Kabul regime continues to commit aggressions against Pakistan in violation of the Geneva accords. The Kabul regime has also started a false propaganda campaign against Pakistan claiming that it is violating the Geneva accords.

Curfew Imposed in Karachi Area; Army Called In

BK2509152288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] A curfew has been clamped on Brigade Police Station area of Karachi from 1730 this afternoon [25 September] until further orders. The Army has been called out to maintain law and order in the area.

More on Curfew

BK2509162088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] In Karachi, a curfew has been imposed on the jurisdiction of Brigade Police Station from 1730 this afternoon till further orders. A press note issued by the district magistrate, Karachi East, says this has been done following incidents of indiscriminate firing by some groups of miscreants on passersby and police personnel on duty in which 1 person was killed and 13 others injured. Five of the injured, including a policeman, later succumbed to their injuries.

Flood Emergency Declared in Punjab Districts

BK2609111988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] In the Punjab, all concerned agencies have been directed to maintain round-the-clock vigilance along the protective bundhs [embankments] and barrages in view of the serious situation caused by exceptionally high floods passing through the Ravi and the Chenab [Rivers]. The provincial relief commissioner told a Radio Pakistan representative in Lahore today that Army has

already been deployed for relief and evacuation measures wherever necessary. All resources are being mobilized for undertaking relief measures.

A flood emergency has also been declared in Multan District and people living in the low lying areas of Multan and Shujabad have been advised to leave immediately to safer places. A high-level meeting in Multan today reviewed the situation caused by unprecedented high floods in Chenab and Ravi.

UAE Aircraft Handed Over After Rebuilding

BK2609065388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Two aircraft of the United Arab Emirates, rebuilt at the Pakistan aeronautical complex, Kamra, were handed over to the representative of the UAE Air Force at a ceremony in Kamra today. The rebuilding of the aircraft was carried out at the request of the UAE Air Force.

Speaking on the occasion, the (?secretary) of the defense production division, Lieutenant General Talat Masud, said this important event will go a long way in strengthening fraternal ties between the two countries. He said Pakistan will continue to provide technical assistance to the Islamic countries to improve their defense capabilities. Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Farooq Feroz Khan and the director general of the complex, Air Vice Marshal Farooq Umar, also spoke on this occasion.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Cited on National Election Dates

BK2509032888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has said that the presidential elections will be held by the end of this year and the general elections to elect a new parliament by early next year in accordance with the Constitution. Mr Jayewardene announced this while addressing a meeting of the Ceylon Planters Society in Colombo yesterday. The parliamentary elections were due to be held in August next year.

Only last week, Mr Jayewardene announced that he will step down after his current term ends in February. The ruling United National Party has nominated Prime Minister Premadasa as its presidential candidate. The last general election was held in the island in 1977, in which the United National Party came to power, unseating the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of Sirimavo Bandaranaike. The term of parliament was extended by another 6 years through a referendum in 1982.

President Asks Support in Containing Terrorism

BK2509111588 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] President Jayewardene has requested all citizens to extend their full support to contain terrorism. He said universal franchise of democracy will not survive if the people fail to support the government in this regard. The president was speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of the Sri Dharma Loko Madhya Mahavidialaya [university] at (?Kaleliya) yesterday. Mr Jayewardene pointed out that subversive activities in the north and in the east began with the intention of separating the area from the central government. He cannot understand the basis of the commencement of terrorist activities in the south.

The president recalled how he himself and his party supported the previous administration to combat terrorism in 1971. Rohana Wijeweera, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] leader, was released as he promised to desist from subversive activities. The president reiterated that the government was trying its best to eradicate terrorism in the south.

Indian Troops Resume Operations After Cease-Fire

BK2609072288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 26 (AFP)—Indian troop operations will continue as they did before the New Delhi-declared 10-day ceasefire between the dominant Tamil rebel group and Indian troops which ended Sunday [25 September], an Indian High Commission spokeswoman said here Monday. A five-day ceasefire declared September 15 was extended for an additional five days to allow the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to surrender arms and enter mainstream politics. The group did not respond, however, the spokeswoman said. An LTTE spokesman contacted in London said that the group wanted a permanent truce and official talks with the Indian leadership.

An appeal by prominent citizens in the region for a further extension of the ceasefire met with a negative reponse from New Delhi. India has some 49,000 troops deployed in the island's north and east as part of a July 1987 Indo-Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign. Reports reaching here from the two regions said that armed Indian troops were back on the streets from Sunday morning and were continuing their cordon and search operations for LTTE rebels. [passage omitted]

LTTE Vows To Continue Fight for Freedom

BK2609112488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1107 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Madras, India, Sep 26 (AFP)—The Political Committee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ()LTTE) said Monday the group was resolved to continue its fight for freedom in Sri Lanka. In a press

statement relesed here to commemorate the death of Amirthalingam Thaleepan, a Tamil militant who fasted to death in September last year, the committee said: "Socialist Eelam will become a reality one day," and called on Tamils to prepare for "a apeople's war of liberation." Observers saw the statement as significant in that it came at the end of a 10-day New Delhi-declared ceasefire in the bush war with the Tigers, the main Tamil rebel group in Sri Lanka, during which India had hoped the LTTE would agree to come to the negotiating table.

The announcement here coincided with a separate statement by an LTTE spokesman, contacted in London from Colombo, who said the group wanted a permanent truce and official talks with the Indian leadership. [passage omitted]

The LTTE committtee statement issued here described last year's Indo-Sri Lanka accord as a failure and said it had undermined Tamil interests and aggravated the ethnic conflict. "We will carry on our struggle with vigor and determination until our revolutionary goal of freedom is achieved," it said. The committee repeated demands for a halt to alleged Sinhala colonization of Tamil areas and suspension of rehabilitation works until an interim government could be formed in the northeast. It also repeated calls for Sinhalese army camps and police posts in the area to be closed down.

Delhi: JVP 'Extremists' Kill 3 Security Men
BK2309161888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 3 security personnel were killed and 12 injured in attacks by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists last night. According to a military spokesman the extremists raided two police stations on the outskirts of Colombo and ambushed Army patrols in southern and central parts of the country. Reinforcements have been rushed to the suburban police stations following the attacks.

'Hard-Core Southern Terrorist' Killed in Blast
BK2609095488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0929 GMT 26 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Sept (LANKAPUVATH)—A man described by police as a hard-core southern terrorist and a JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] leader in the Southern Province was killed Friday when a time bomb he was manufacturing exploded. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the dead terrorist was G. Dissanayake (32), the JVP leader of Galagamuwa in Belliata. He had succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

Navy Sinks Boat; 1 'Terrorist' Killed, 3 Arrested
BK2609123988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1209 GMT 26 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Sept (LANKAPUVATH)—One terrorist succumbed to his injuries and three others were arrested when the Sri Lanka Navy boat "Ranakamee" sank a high powered boat, which failed to obey orders given by the Sri Lanka Navy on the seas 14 miles north of Kovalam in the early hours of Saturday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the Navy was making arrangements to hand over the arrested suspects to the Criminal Investigation Department officials at the Palali Camp.

Daily on India's Motives in Calling Cease-Fire
BK2309144188 Colombo SUN in English 16 Sep 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Ceasefire"]

[Text] Once again the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) has announced a ceasefire in north and east Lanka. Evidently it is a unilateral declaration as the recalcitrant Tiger terrorists have hardly whispered a murmur about laying down their arms. On the contrary they are very active on the war front not only engaging the Indians in a war of attrition but continuing to commit demonic massacres against unarmed civilians. The latest five-day ceasefire like most of their announcements was made by New Delhi taking Sri Lankans viz. politicians, armed services and the mediamen by surprise. As we have mentioned in not less than three separate editorials during the past fortnight a very awkward trend symbolising a cavalier attitude towards our own integrity and sovereignty seems to have emerged in the basic Indo-Lanka relations.

The people of this country and even their decisionmakers are being systematically kept in the dark about important matters that affect their own lives and the future of their own country. We have already mentioned the lackadaisical attitude adopted by Indians in blacking out their operations in the north and east to the Lankan public while giving all the details to their own media. This was followed by the Delhi 'scoops' about Lanka's own gazette notices on the north-east merger. And hot on those heels comes this 'ceasefire' edict from Delhi with nary a word about it from our own official sources.

India must not fail to realise that its role as peace keeper hardly warrants such action which smacks of hegemonism. If the excuse is oversight then let us hope that they do not occur ever again. What seems rather plausible is that the South Block [Indian Foreign Ministry] in New Delhi in a concerted effort to help Premier Rajiv Gandhi boost up his floundering image is trying every trick up its sleeve to win the hearts and minds of Tamil Nadu. And settling the Tamil problem in Lanka has become New

Delhi's priority number one in the light of the upcoming polls in the southern state. It is most unfortunate if the peace broker continues to seek every compromise from Sri Lanka with a view to satisfy its own political greed as it seems to do.

India's prime obligation under the accord is to restore normalcy in the north and east by disarming the terrorists and making them accept the accord. This has not been fulfilled up to now. It appears that the sudden ceasefire announcement is a desperate effort to bring the Tigers to the political mainstream so that the north-east polls will neither be a non-event nor a catastrophe with violent reprisals. As we have said before, the upcoming polls should be held only if the ground situation in the north and east is stable and trouble free. This will be possible only if the Tigers are tamed and made to accept the accord after surrendering their weapons.